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## PM issues ultimatum to NRP on early elections

**By SARAH HONIG**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expects the National Religious Party to notify him today whether or not it supports the government or prefers advancing elections.

This is widely interpreted as a warning, if not an ultimatum. The faction will meet this morning to consider a reply.

If the NRP cannot assure Netanyahu that it will vote with the government, the prime minister may opt for national unity, despite denials yesterday by both Netanyahu and Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak that they are hatching national unity schemes.

Meanwhile, Netanyahu will seek to bring Geshet MK David Levy back into his coalition. For the first time in months Levy has not rebuffed Netanyahu out of hand, but even if the prime minister wins him over, Levy and the two Geshet MKs who still toe his line will not assure Netanyahu of parliamentary survival.

Levy was reported by his brother Maxim and Yehuda Lankri - the only Geshet MKs still totally loyal to him - as having reacted to Netanyahu's latest overtures by saying that "this time there may be something to talk about," despite the fact that the only two portfolios he could be offered are ones he has already rejected.

According to sources in both the Likud and Geshet, Netanyahu offered Levy the finance portfolio, or, if he so wishes, the National Infrastructure portfolio, which Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon would be ready to yield.

The problem is that Sharon holds the Foreign Affairs portfolio, which Levy relinquished when he quit last January.

Levy opposed Sharon becoming foreign minister and has only recently blasted the notion that he inherit the infrastructure portfolio he helped set up together for Sharon when the Netanyahu government was set up in 1996.

Levy was offered finance during the formation of the government, and this offer was repeated several times after his departure from the government. Levy has always rejected it.

Lankri sought to explain yesterday that "now that Netanyahu has signed the Wye agreement, the government has shown it is serious about peace. That was one of our complaints last year, and now it is gone. Perhaps we can alter the balance on socio-economic issues as well, and therefore we need to consider carefully what to do about this offer."

Maxim Levy told *The Jerusalem Post* that his brother is "now waiting for a formal offer and he will give it fair consideration." This formal offer is expected to come this morning.

However, Levy's dowry has shrunk. His five-member Geshet faction is now down to three. MKs Michael Kleiner and David Magen both voted against the Wye agreement.

Kleiner heads the Knesset's Land of Israel Front and Magen suspended his membership in Geshet. The addition of three MKs will not assure Netanyahu of the parliamentary majority he now lacks.

There is talk now of restoring Geshet to the Likud. The lure for Levy would be a slice of the central committee membership, something he was after before he broke away from the Likud.

In both the Likud and Geshet the consensus is that Levy's change of heart stems primarily from the poor showing of his party at the recent local elections. That erased his hopes of running successfully for the Knesset and the premiership on the Geshet ticket.

Coalition whip Meir Sheetrit, meanwhile, assembled most Likud MKs yesterday to deliberate on national unity.

See NRP, Page 2

## 3 troops wounded in Lebanon

**By DAVID RUDGE**

Tension was running high in the North last night following heavy fighting in south Lebanon in which three IDF soldiers were wounded - two of them seriously.

One of the wounded soldiers was reported to be in critical condition after both his legs were blown off from the blast of either a mortar round or an anti-tank missile.

Two South Lebanese Army soldiers were also lightly hurt in the bombardments yesterday. Reports from Lebanon said three civilians, one of them a young boy, were wounded in the Nabatiya region north of the security zone, apparently as a result of SLA shelling.

IAF warplanes twice struck at Hizbullah targets north of the security zone and helicopter gunships were also in action during the fighting - the heaviest in the region in several months.

In the past, Hizbullah responded with Katyusha rocket attacks on the Galilee for the wounding of Lebanese civilians, although more recently the retaliation has taken the form of mortar fire at IDF outposts on the border.

It was not clear last night whether there would be an escalation following the fierce artillery duels, although some residents of Galilee communities decided to sleep in shelters as a precaution.

The two soldiers who were badly wounded were members of a tank crew.

They had been outside checking the vehicle at the IDF's Dja'at outpost, in the eastern sector of the zone, when the position came under a sustained Hizbullah attack.

Brig.-Gen. Etti (Fein) Eitam, commander of the Galilee region, said that about 30 minutes earlier the Nahal Brigade soldiers manning the Dja'at position had completed an exercise in repulsing an attack on the outpost.

The tank crew was released to inspect their vehicle for nighttime activities.

"Two members of the crew, the commander and the gunner, were inside and the driver and the loader were outside," Eitam told reporters in the North last night. The two inside the tank were unhurt.

The two outside "were both wearing their flak jackets and helmets and were wounded in the limbs either by a mortar or anti-tank missile," he said.

Hizbullah gunmen tried to approach the position under cover of the mortar and anti-tank missile bombardments but were repulsed by heavy counter fire from troops manning the outpost, aided by IDF artillery and helicopter gunships.

About seven or eight separate Hizbullah units, totalling as many as 60 gunmen, were involved in the bombardments and the abortive ground assault, which lasted for just over 15 minutes.

See LEBANON, Page 2



IDF soldiers wounded in south Lebanon yesterday are evacuated by helicopter to Rambam Hospital in Haifa. (Avital Shapira)

## PA plans West Bank airport Netanyahu off to Europe tomorrow

**By BEN LYNFIELD**

The Palestinian Authority, which hopes to gain momentum toward independence with today's opening of Gaza International Airport, is already planning to build another airfield, this time in the West Bank.

"We are planning to make a strip in the West Bank within a year," said Capt. Salmaan Abu Halib, head of civil aviation for the PA. The location has not been determined, he said.

According to Shlomo Dror, spokesman for the coordinator of activities in the territories, the venue would need to be worked out in discussions with Israel or else face a veto.

At the Gaza airport, located at Dahaniya along the Egyptian border, PA Chairman Yasser Arafat is scheduled to greet the first arriving flight at 8:30 a.m., according to PA officials. That will be an Egypt Air flight from Cairo, bearing Egyptian cabinet ministers, political figures, and entertainers, including actor Adel Imam.

"All of the passengers will be our guests overnight in Gaza," him quoted Arafat as saying.

Other flights scheduled to arrive today are from Morocco, Jordan, Spain, Holland, and Saudi Arabia, him reported.

Beyond the airport's role as a symbol of sovereignty, it promises to significantly ease travel for Palestinians, especially residents of Gaza.

Henceforth, those seeking to travel by air will no longer have to obtain permits to enter Israel.

Moreover, the airport opens up new possibilities for importing and exporting goods, without expensive and time-consuming shipment via Israel.

Israeli personnel will be stationed at the airport for security control, including in the tower, but will be "invisible" to the public, Dror said.

The set-up inside the terminal will be the same as at the Rafah crossing and Allenby Bridge, where Israeli personnel are situated behind screens.

"We are satisfied with the security arrangements. If not, we wouldn't open it," Dror said.

Nevertheless, Israel has barred its own citizens from using the airport, citing security considerations.

Abu Halib said the West Bank facility would be used for flights to and from Gaza International Airport. PA officials plan to broach the idea with Israeli counterparts once the Gaza facility is up and running, he said.

The idea of building a PA airport in the West Bank is in accordance with the Oslo Accords, Dror said. But, he stressed, "the site and everything around it must be carefully selected in coordination with us."

**By DANNA HARMAN**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is to meet with British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Thursday, plans to thank him for maintaining a stance against a unilateral Palestinian declaration of statehood - although Blair has never officially taken this position.

Sources say that in the course of Netanyahu's five-day European trip, which begins tomorrow, he will thank Blair for his stand against the unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood. A senior source close to the British government said in response that he was "very surprised to hear of Netanyahu's intention, seeing as Britain has not gone on the record with this sort of statement."

What Britain has gone on the record with, in fact, is its stand against the unilateral action of settlement building.

Earlier this month, when a fence was erected around Ras el-Amud and increased investment in settlements was announced, the British Consul-General in Jerusalem reiterated Britain's position that settlements in the occupied territories and east Jerusalem are illegal under international law and an obstacle to peace.

The projects, a statement published at the time said, were "both highly controversial and risk undermining the new spirit of cooperation forged at Wye."

A senior official at the British Embassy said yesterday that "we maintain a balanced stance, and urge both sides to refrain from unilateral actions which could effect the peace process."

If Netanyahu wants to thank Blair for that position, said the official, "he would be welcome to do so."

Netanyahu is expected to be faced with some hard questions of a different kind when he makes a quick stop in Switzerland en route to England. There, he will attend a high-tech trade fair in Zurich and meet with Swiss President Flavio Cotti, Defense Minister Adolf Ogi, and Economics Minister Pascal Couchepin in Bern.

The topics of discussion on the official agenda are economic joint projects and the potential for increasing military trade, which is expected to reach \$1 billion in the next five years. In addition, Netanyahu intends to ask Cotti to support the fight against transfer of unconventional technology to Iran.

However, another issue that will undoubtedly come up is the Swiss dissatisfaction with Netanyahu's involvement in the fight for Holocaust-era restitution. Swiss government spokesperson Achille Casanova said last week that Netanyahu's attendance at an award ceremony in the Knesset honoring

US Sen. Alfonse D'Amato and three other Americans who helped force Swiss banks into the \$1.25 billion settlement had "cast a shadow" over the upcoming visit.

Netanyahu briefed the foreign press yesterday, preempting such criticism by praising the Swiss government, and Cotti in particular, "for handling (the restitution issue) deftly, with great attention... despite the many difficulties that they faced."

After Switzerland and Britain, Netanyahu will spend the weekend in Spain, as the guest of Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar. There, he will brief his hosts on the Wye accord implementation, and ask Aznar to refrain from supporting "any one-sided agreements which might jeopardize the peace process."

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is also travelling to Europe, inaugurating the Gaza airport with a flight to Paris today.

## Second round today in 35 local authorities

**By MICHAEL YUDELMAN**

A second round of municipal elections will be held today in 35 local authorities, where the leading candidates failed to get more than 40 percent of the votes in the first round two weeks ago.

The polls will be open from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m., and the results are expected late tonight or tomorrow morning.

**The candidates, Page 2**

Schools in which voting takes place will stop studies at midday. In Herzliya, Yael German (Meretz), running against Yehuda Urieli (Likud), hopes to be the second woman mayor in a major city, after Miriam Fireburg's victory in Netanya two weeks ago.

German received 33% of the vote in the first round and Urieli 28%.

German has been campaigning with a bodyguard following threats on her and her family's life. This week she lodged a complaint with the police against Urieli's election staff.

"Violence is rampant here. The religious public is being incited against me incessantly and groundlessly," German said yesterday, referring to leaflets distributed in synagogues alleging that she would introduce civil marriage and operate transportation and businesses on Shabbat.

Urieli said that "German is inciting all the time and lying. It's all

lies. The incitement is against me: They say I'm a contractor, a real estate entrepreneur. I haven't slandered anyone."

One of the tenser campaigns is being conducted in Bat Yam, where Yehoshua Saguy (Likud) is running against independent Shlomo Lahiani, who is supported by Labor.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu first supported Saguy, a former OC Intelligence, then asked him to step down in favor of Lahiani, who appeared to be the opinion poll favorite. But Saguy, who received

37% of the vote in the first round, refused to step down and Netanyahu had no choice but to reverse his position once again and support him.

Netanyahu's spokesman Aviv Bushinsky denied rumors that the prime minister had promised Saguy a Foreign Service position if he withdrew from the race.

Lahiani, who gleaned 35% of the votes in the previous round, is the son of a street sweeper who made good. Today he is a wealthy real estate man, who has invested some NIS 2 million in his campaign.

The campaign is also heating up in Migdal Ha'emek, where Susanne Amor (Likud), wife of longtime mayor and MK Shaul Amor, is running against Brig.-Gen. (res.) Eli Barda of Geshet.

Barda, who received 38% in the first round and has an agreement with Labor, is certain of his victory. But Amor, who received 28%, says she has agreements with Yisrael Ba'aliya and Shas.

In addition, Amor is supported by Netanyahu, who came to a rally to express his support personally. "An iron woman with a heart of gold," Netanyahu called her, adding: "Do you know what a great cook she is?"

Barda organized a rally over the weekend, where Geshet leader David Levy spoke to some 1,500 people. A triumph for Barda would compensate Levy to some extent for the defeat of his son, Jackie, also a Geshet candidate, in Beit She'an.

A nasty poster war is raging in Kfar Sava, perhaps in an attempt to jolt the sleepy campaign between incumbent Yitzhak Wald and his deputy, Amiram Miller, who tied with 26% each.

Last week a poster warned residents that Wald, of Labor, cannot run the town because he is grieving for his son. The poster was signed by "Citizens for Miller."



## Police: Denver cult has arrived

**By LIAT COLLINS and news agencies**

Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki confirmed yesterday that 10 members of a Denver doomsday cult feared to be planning a mass suicide have arrived in the country.

But he refused to discuss reports of a cult intending to commit suicide in the city to mark the millennium. He also declined to discuss the possibility that the cult intended to carry out such an act on the Temple Mount.

"There has already been too much publicity and too many stories and it is harmful," he said. Yitzhaki was speaking to reporters after a meeting of the Knesset Interior Committee.

Cult watchers have warned that members of the Concerned Christians might head to Israel on instructions from their leader

Monte Kim Miller. Miller has said he will die in Jerusalem in December 1999 and will be resurrected three days later.

But the Jerusalem police, which established a special task force to prepare for the influx of pilgrims during the millennium, said the group does not appear to pose a threat at this stage.

**Dow hits high**

NEW YORK (AP) - The Dow plowed back into record territory yesterday, completing a nearly 2,000-point rebound from its summer slide, rising 214.72 points - or by 2.3 percent - to a record 9,374.27, vaulting past the record close of 9,337.97 set on July 17.

Full report, Page 15



NEWS

in brief

Israeli-PA anti-incitement committee to meet

The trilateral anti-incitement committee is to meet today for the first time and set out a framework for its operations. The committee, which will be made up of delegates from the United States, Israel and the Palestinian Authority, was established by the Wye accords.

Each country has appointed four delegates to the committee consisting of a journalist, an educator, a law enforcement official and an elected official.

Danna Harman

Charges filed in slaying of Palestinian man

Gur Hamel, 28, was charged yesterday in the Tel Aviv District Court with murdering a 75-year-old Palestinian man from the West Bank village of Beit Furik, near Nablus, last month.

According to a police request to the court to keep Hamel in custody during his trial, he has confessed to killing Mohammed Zalmout, but says that he acted in self-defense during a fight between them.

The charge sheet says Hamel left his sister's house in the settlement of Itamar and headed into an olive grove where Zalmout was working. Hamel allegedly attacked Zalmout without provocation after the Palestinian had taken off his shoes to pray, first breaking his arm and choking him, and then smashing his skull with rocks.



Gur Hamel (Israel Sun)

Itim

Police: Settlers didn't murder woman

Police yesterday denied Palestinian accusations that settlers murdered a Palestinian woman whose body was discovered on Saturday morning near Neveh Daniel.

Judea and Samaria police spokesman Opher Sivan said there were signs of violence on the young woman's body and it had been sent to the National Forensic Institute in Abu Kabir for tests. Sivan said that police are cooperating with the Palestinian Police and stressed that all the signs pointed in the direction of the Palestinians.

Margot Dudkevitch

Suspect in bid to harm PM gets house arrest

Police yesterday freed Safed resident Shabtai Bloch, 48, who was imprisoned Friday by order of the Acre Magistrate's Court on suspicion of conspiring with another man to harm Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a visit to the northern town earlier this month.

Bloch will remain under house arrest for five days. He was welcomed from prison by dozens of colleagues and friends from the Habad movement.

His lawyer, Aharon Shlinger, said it had become clear that "all the suspicions came out of thin air."

Itim

Mitzna forms coalition in Haifa

Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna has become the first head of one of the country's major cities to form a coalition following the municipal elections earlier this month. The coalition is expected to be composed of Labor, Likud, religious parties, Dor Shalom, Hadash, and Yisrael Ba'Aliya. The Greens, Meretz, and Amos Eden's Haifa for Haifaites are expected to be in the opposition. The coalition deal is due to be officially signed today.

David Rudge

Pedestrian killed in accident

A woman, 77, was killed yesterday and her friend, also 77, seriously injured when they were struck by a car while crossing a Haifa street at the crosswalk.

Itim

A not-so-sweet side of sugar - it could age you

Rats that eat high levels of a natural sugar known as fructose seem to age faster than other rats - and the same could be true for people who eat too much sweet junk food, Technion researchers said yesterday. Fructose, found naturally in honey and fruit, is used widely in foods ranging from soft drinks to yogurt. But while its sweet taste is popular, the sugar could cause wrinkles, sagging, and health problems, Dr. Moshe Werman and Boaz Levi wrote in the Washington-based Journal of Nutrition.

Reuters

Commandos' parents reject IDF stance

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The parents of Third Petty Officer Guy Golan and SPO Raz Tebi, two of the naval commandos killed in a botched raid in Lebanon in September 1996, have rejected an IDF explanation and apology for the burial of their sons' remains without notification. In a statement issued by their lawyer, the parents continue to demand that the IDF conduct a DNA test of the remains to make sure that they were from their sons. Parts of their bodies were returned immediately after the raid, but other remains arrived in June 1997 in an exchange deal worked out with Hizbullah. The army buried these remains without informing the parents, saying this

is standard practice. Since finding out two weeks later, the families have demanded justice and have expressed contempt for the way the IDF behaved and this week have turned to the press to convey their anger.

The Golan and Tebi families flatly rejected the IDF claim that the body parts were identified by professionals, saying comparing skin color and size was not enough. "The families are repeating their demand for professional identification of the body parts and an honorable burial," the statement said.

It added their demand that an inquiry be held to stop the practice of burying body parts without notifying the family.

To mark the shloshim of the passing of our beloved husband, father and grandfather

ELI ROTHSCHILD

we will gather at his grave on Thursday, November 26, 1998, at 2:30 p.m., meeting at the plaza of the Yarkon cemetery

The family

On the shloshim of the passing of our dear

MOSHE LURIA

we will gather at his graveside to unveil his tombstone on Thursday, November 26, at 3:30 p.m. at the Nahlat Yitzhak Cemetery

His wife, Magda Luria and the Luria - Stark families

PM tries to reassure Samaria settlers

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday met with residents of the northern Samaria settlements of Homesh, Kadim, Ganim, and Shavei Shomron to offer his assurance their communities will remain an integral part of Israel.

Many of the residents said all they heard were promises, and that Netanyahu had failed to respond to their fears concerning security, but others said they felt reassured by his words.

Meanwhile, a group of settlers took over a hilltop near Elon Moreh, and the IDF declared Hill 777 near Itamar a closed military zone and demanded that the group which set up an encampment there on Sunday leave the area.

Ya'acov Even, secretary of Ganim and Kadim, said some 300 people packed the hall and greeted Netanyahu and his entourage. Last week, residents had expressed anger that government officials had failed to meet with them before the redeployment and inform them how their lives will be affected. They feared they would be forced to pass Palestinian roadblocks driving to and from their homes.

Netanyahu assured them that the roads will remain under Israeli control and that the government would push for the completion of bypass roads.

"I came here to give you my support and inform you that we are ready to invest," he said. "We are a free country and I can't force anyone to remain, but I advise you

to think again."

In addition Netanyahu told Benzi Lieberman head of the Samaria Regional Council that the council would receive NIS 2.5 million and promised new schools in the area, a cultural center, swimming pools, and a computer for every child.

"Swimming pools and comput-

ers are all he promised, but not once did he relate to problems concerning employment and the development of industry," said a resident of Shavei Shomron.

Similar sentiments were expressed by Shmuelik Deri, of Kadim. "He didn't answer the questions," Deri told Channel 2.

Even said that it was important

that Netanyahu finally met with residents and declared his respect for them, but added in a slightly pessimistic voice: "Time will tell."

Shlomo Filber deputy director of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza declared after the meeting that the council had a list of

people willing to move into the homes of any residents who decide to leave.

Council spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar declared: "If you look at the map and compare it with facts on the ground, how can Netanyahu say nothing has changed. The reality is that the army is preparing for violence."



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu picks up a baby during his meeting with settlers yesterday.

(Dan Orensky/Israel Sun)

Israel, Jordan move closer on economic ties

By DAVID ZEY HARRIS

AMMAN - Israel and Jordan yesterday agreed to a series of measures aimed at improving bilateral economic ties and those with the Palestinian Authority.

Speaking to journalists after meeting Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh, Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon said next week he will ask the donor nations to pledge money for a multi-year program to construct a huge regional desalination plant.

"The problem of water in the region is a central one and does not belong to just one country," said Sharon, who said the program will run for more than a decade. Jordan's Foreign Minister Abdel Ilah Khatib, meanwhile, rejected

the suggestion that Sunday's Syrian-Jordanian decision to set up an early warning system for water quality in the Yarmouk River would contravene any water agreements with Israel.

In a varied discussion, also attended by Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, the two sides agreed to ask the US to expand the Irbid free-trade zone by 200 dunams (50 acres) and to create new zones at Mafraq and straddling the border just south of Beit She'an near Kibbutz Tirat Zvi.

"American approval should be a formality," said a Sharansky aide. The two sides failed to reach full agreement on Jordan's request that Israel allow the export of some 1,800 products to the territo-

ries under the tax rules of the PA. Presently 100 manufactured goods are entitled to this status, and Israel has said it will allow a further 1,300. The negotiating teams agreed to establish a joint Palestinian-Jordanian-Israeli committee to examine the subject.

Khatib reminded Israel that as the final-status talks begin, Jordan must be consulted at every stage, as it has a vested interest in decisions taken concerning the West Bank. Israel and the PA have both committed to fully involving Jordan in the talks, he added.

The meeting did focus on the second redeployment and final-status talks, but neither side revealed details, explaining the Israeli team merely updated Jordan on the latest developments.

12 Palestinians lightly wounded in Dura clash

By MOHAMMED NAJIB

Ten Palestinian students were lightly wounded yesterday in Dura, south of Hebron, when an IDF patrol used tear gas and fired rubber bullets after being attacked by stones and petrol bombs, Palestinian sources said.

Two Palestinian policemen were also lightly wounded by rubber bullets during the incident, the sources added. They had been trying to control those attacking the IDF patrol, the sources said.

The IDF Spokesman said in a statement last night that the patrol was "attacked by Palestinian youths who rioted and burned tires. IDF forces dispersed the rioters with rubber bullets and tear gas. There were no wounded [soldiers] and no damage was inflicted."

The wounded Palestinians were transferred to a hospital in Hebron, the Palestinian sources said. A staffer at Alia Hospital said that one person was treated there for tear gas inhalation and released and other people were treated at Ahli Hospital and released.

In Tel Aviv, Palestinian and

Israeli negotiators met yesterday to discuss prisoner releases but failed to make progress, according to Hisham Abdel Razik, a Palestinian Authority Minister of State who is responsible for prisoner issues. The PA is demanding that Israel include more political prisoners in the next release, following last Friday's release of mostly criminal offenders. Three prisoners at Megiddo jail declared a hunger strike on Sunday. Dozens of Palestinians demonstrated yesterday in Gaza City at the Red Cross offices, calling on the PA to secure the release of all Palestinian prisoners belonging to all factions. Palestinian police reportedly dispersed them and prevented them from reaching the house of Mahmoud Abbas, the deputy of PA Chairman Yasser Arafat.

ELECTIONS

Continued from Page 1

Miller, an independent, denied having anything to do with the poster and said only a sick mind could put out something like that.

Then Yoel Kroll, another independent, who received 23% in the first round, spread rumors that he saw Wald's people distributing the posters. According to one version, Kroll hopes Wald will step down at the last minute and a grateful Miller will give him a senior position.

The prize for most threats, hate slogans, and police complaints goes to Sderot, where incumbent David Buskila (Labor, supported by Shas) is running against Eli Moyal (independent).

At the height of the campaign the two rivals accused each other of being addicted to drugs and having AIDS.

In the first round, Buskila won 38% and Moyal 34%.

NRP

Continued from Page 1

He told them that the "only viable options now are unity or early elections. I propose that Likud and Labor members who favor unity put an ultimatum to their leaders and force them to take the matter seriously... Right now we can pass no bills or stop others. I may decide to step down as whip if I conclude that the job is impossible."

The Likud MKs will convene again next week to resume their discussion.

In the meantime, Labor MK Yossi Beilin called a meeting of his faction's MKs, who oppose a national unity government under Netanyahu. Barak strove to calm those in his party who worry that he might succumb to Netanyahu's wooing. Barak said there is "no reason for us to get uptight every time Netanyahu becomes uptight. Whenever he is in distress, Netanyahu sends up trial balloons. These are transparent manipulations on his part, and we should not react hysterically."

Netanyahu yesterday reiterated his denial of Sunday night, insisting "there is no deal with Barak. There is no deal in the making. This is all much ado about nothing."

The candidates in today's elections

Mohammed Yassin Zuiyat and Ali Ibrahim Hussein in Basmat Tiyon; Kassel Ali and Titi Abass in Bana; Shlomo Lahiani and Yehoshua Saguy in Bat Yam; Jabar Jabar and Rabbi Darwish in Jaljalia; Abu Fui Mohammed and Jalal Watad in Jatt; Hovav Gamliat and Elihu Radi in Gadera; Rahab Asdi and Ahmed Dabab in Dir el-Assad; Yael German and Yehuda Urieli in Herzliya; Arye Tal and Arye Mazliyah Farjoun in Tirat Carmel; Adal Abu Hel Higa and Mussa Abu Rumi in Tamra; Shlomo Bakshi and Uzi Meir in Yehud; Eitan Belinkov and Hanoch Kivshana Dan in Kinneret; Muafak Basal and Oni Tuma in Kafr Yasif; Galal Nabso and Pashmaf Shochon in Kafr Kana; Hussein Hatib and Wasal Taha in Kafr Kana; Yitzhak Wald and Amiram Miller in Kafr Sava; Zubeir Yihye and Hassan Athmana in Kafr Kana; Shmuel Ben-Tovim and Yosef Milstein in Kfar Shmaryahu; Assad Araida and Kassem Ganam in Maghar; Elihu Barda and Susanne Amor in Migdal Ha'emek; Adi Hadar and Moshe Schechter in Modi'in; Salomon Cohen and Elihu Shapira in Metzer; Omar Matar and Sami Sarhan in Nahaf; Sharif Abu Rokan and Cinge Mansour in Ushiya; Fadel Naamna and Yassin Yassin in Araba; Mordechai Gross and Bezalel Tassab in Araba; David Amar and Shaul Shamai in Afula; Yishai Maimon and Yosef Oz in Safed; Yosef Tachnuri and Nabhan Kashkush in Kalansawa; Albert Erez in Kiryat Gat (residents will vote for or against him - if the majority are against him the new town council will pick the new mayor); Joris Huri and Afif Gazzawi in Rama; Yigal Yanai and Yigal Yosef in Rosh Ha'ayin; Jamal Zeidan and Adnan Basul in Reina; Eli Moyal and David Buskila in Sderot; Afu Fawer and Hualad Nabil in Sha'ab.

Michal Yudelman

LEBANON

Continued from Page 1

Senior military sources said it was unlikely that they were trying to overrun the position but probably wanted to raise Hizbullah's flag on the ramparts as part of the organization's psychological war against the IDF and SLA.

Eitam said the Nahr Brigade troops, who had recently entered the position, acted in a professional manner and probably inflicted casualties on the attackers.

He said it was possible that the Hizbullah gunmen had launched their attack earlier than planned, believing that they had been spotted because of the training exercise held by the soldiers earlier.

Medical crews went to the scene and treated the two badly wounded soldiers, but it was several minutes before they were evacuated. They were brought to Haifa's Rambam Hospital and were being treated in its intensive care unit.

During the fighting in the Dila at

region mortars also hit a nearby SLA outpost and two of the soldiers there were lightly wounded.

Once again Hizbullah gunmen fired mortars from the outskirts of villages north of the zone.

Later in the afternoon, in a separate incident, Hizbullah gunmen fired an anti-tank missile at another IDF tank that was on operational duties in the Rehan region, in the northeastern sector of the security zone.

An officer in the tank suffered light to moderate injuries. He was treated at the scene and also evacuated by helicopter to Rambam Hospital, where he was in stable condition last night.

Hizbullah gunmen also fired mortars and anti-tank missiles at SLA positions in the Rehan region, without causing any casualties or damage.

The attacks yesterday followed the incident last week in which three Golan Brigade soldiers were killed in a bomb blast just 30 meters from the IDF's Tel Kaba outpost in the zone's eastern sector.

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# Nahman gives up Knesset seat

By NINA GILBERT

Ariel Mayor Ran Nahman resigned from the Knesset yesterday after the High Court of Justice ruled he had 48 hours to decide between his two jobs.

"At this critical time, when the residents of Judea and Samaria are facing great difficulties, Ariel needs leadership," Nahman told a news conference in the Knesset.

He also said that staying in Ariel will enable him to influence, via his role in the settlement movement, the future of the city in advance of a final-status arrangement with the Palestinians. Nahman noted that if he had been a mayor in Israel proper, he would have chosen to serve in the Knesset.

Nahman's position will be taken by Yisrael Katz, 43, a resident of Kfar Ahim. Nahman technically became an MK after Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert resigned from his seat after 25 years in the House due to the law prohibiting an MK from holding the two posts, out of a fear of conflict of interests.

However, he was not sworn in and petitioned the High Court for a temporary injunction to prevent him from losing his job in Ariel until the court made a decision on his Knesset seat.

As a result, there have only been 119 MKs since last week, and Speaker Dan Tichon decided to postpone votes on any controversial legislation.

According to the law, passed in 1996, mayors would have to give up their Knesset seats at the end of their terms. Nahman argued that he should be allowed to serve in the Knesset until he comes up for reelection in May 2000. However, Nahman was not a sitting MK in



Ron Nahman, with his wife Dorit at his side, announces yesterday that he will remain mayor of Ariel.

(Kotkin/Unge)

the present Knesset, after he failed to regain his seat in the 1996 elections.

Omer Mayor Pini Badash (Tzomet), who was reelected this month, has announced that he will resign from the Knesset next week.

He is to be replaced by Doron

Shmueli, who has cut his ties with Tzomet, although he is still earmarked in the party's slot on the joint list with Likud and Geshet. A year ago, he joined the Likud.

Shmueli said last night that he "intends to take the position." The next MK on the joint list is Geshet's Motti Mishani, a Levy

family loyalist.

Katz is a veteran Likud activist and considered a close of ally Avigdor Lieberman, former director-general of the Prime Minister's Office. Last year, Katz embarrassed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu when he was instrumental in defeating the party's pri-

mary system.

But Nahman's move is also considered good for Netanyahu, lest he face more opposition from settlement leaders, although he tried to persuade him to take the job yesterday.

Sarah Honig contributed to this report.

## Changes expected in religious councils

By LIAT COLLINS

Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron said yesterday he would like to cooperate with the Knesset Interior Committee on disbanding religious councils and creating a new system supplying religious needs through the regular local councils.

The move follows a Supreme Court decision permitting Reform and Conservative Jews to sit on the councils.

United Torah Judaism threatened to quit the coalition if a religious council convened with a Reform or Conservative member in attendance. Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau spoke against members of the Reform movement sitting on the religious councils but did not object to the councils being abolished or taking on a different form.

The Knesset Interior Committee is due to discuss several bills on the matter next week.

In a preliminary meeting yesterday at the Chief Rabbinate, Interior Committee chairman Micha Goldman (Labor) called for a "com-

plete revolution in the religious councils." He expected large savings which could be spent directly on improving religious services. Goldman said 90% of the religious councils' budgets go on salaries.

At a later meeting with Labor leader Ehud Barak both Lau and Bakshi-Doron spoke of the need to revamp the religious councils.

"It is commonsense to support efficiency steps even in the religious councils, but one cannot ignore the fact that the move comes after the High Court ruling regarding the Reform and Conservative members on the religious councils," Barak said.

Yona Yahav noted that his bill calling for the religious councils to be disbanded passed preliminary reading last November with support of MKs from different parties, including haredim.

MK Alex Lubotzky (Third Way) said yesterday he also favors disbanding the religious councils.

"The Third Way will vote against any proposal which discriminates against the Conservative, Reform or Reconstructionists even if it means voting no-confidence in the prime

minister," Lubotzky said. He said the religious councils are being used by the religious parties like the Histadrut was used by Labor. Deputy Education Minister Eliezer Zandberg (Tzomet) called on the prime minister not to give in to threats which would prevent non-Orthodox members from sitting on the religious councils.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said although he favors abolishing the religious councils, in theory he does not believe that they would cease to exist. "They will just exist under a different name," he said.

Molede's Benny Elon, who is religious, said he objects to the religious councils having members who are chosen by political parties.

At the meeting with Interior Committee members at the Chief Rabbinate, Goldman asked the chief rabbis to inform rabbis paid by state funds that they are forbidden by law to be involved in political party activities of any kind. This follows the publication of an announcement signed by several municipal rabbis against the Wye agreement.

## No stranger to the cold shoulder

### IN CONTEXT

By NINA GILBERT

Joyce Brenner, a 58-year-old social work professor from Netanya, could be excused for watching the brouhaha surrounding the current religious council crisis with a knowing, if somewhat bemused, look on her face.

The current crisis was spawned by United Torah Judaism and Shas threats to leave the government if a way is not found to circumvent the High Court decision last week, which ordered the Jerusalem and Kiryat Tivon religious councils to seat Reform and Conservative representatives.

These threats, as well as comparisons some haredi politicians are making between Reform and Conservative Judaism and Christianity, and demands for a law to bypass the High Court on this issue, all sound distinctly familiar to Brenner.

Last year, she was the central partner in this very same drama. In August 1997, after three years of legal wrangling, the High Court ordered that Brenner, a Meretz representative and member of Netanya's Reform synagogue, be allowed to join Netanya's religious council. She was the first.

"The same reactions that we are seeing now," Brenner said, "were seen then as well. It was a big deal, a major storm. People talked as if the world was falling apart and that the government would fall. Everything going on now is very similar."

That being the case, and past experience often being a reliable gauge of what to expect in the future, it is instructive to look at Brenner's experience on the Netanya council to see what may be in store in Jerusalem and Kiryat Tivon.

First of all, despite the threats to leave the government, the haredi parties remain part of Prime Minister Netanyahu's coalition. And despite calls to disband the religious councils and have another, more efficient body provide religious service, no such action has been taken.

Interestingly enough, the calls have come from people like UTJ MK Avraham Ruvitz. Finance Minister Yassov Neeman, and Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron. But to disband the councils would incur the wrath of two other religious parties, Shas and the National Religious party, for whom the councils provide valuable patronage possibilities.

"I am a member of the [religious] council, and they have accepted me," Brenner said.

"Not with love, but with manners and politeness. I've been to three or four meetings. The ultra-Orthodox have not come to those meetings, although one of their representatives came to the last meeting. Everyone has been polite. I figure it is all politics. They needed to seat me to have the money flow, they need my presence."



Joyce Brenner (Israel Sun)

## Meimad signs Burg

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Meimad, which until now has been identified as a moderate religious movement, yesterday broadened its political image by announcing that Jewish Agency chairman Avraham Burg (Labor) and MK Alex Lubotzky (Third Way) had joined its ranks.

According to Ofer Glantz, head of the Meimad political branch, the two are the first of a number of high-profile political figures who will be joining Meimad in the near future. Their joining marked Meimad's transition from an ideological movement, since "Our aim is to run for the Knesset," Glantz said.

Glantz said Meimad was centrist and he admitted that "it is crowded in the center." The fact that both Burg, who was known as a leftist, and Lubotzky, who came from the right, could find a place there proved Meimad's credentials as a centrist movement.

He stressed that the movement uniquely viewed Israel as both a Jewish state and a democratic state. Other parties stressed one or the other, he said.

Although Meimad had begun as a religious movement, it was attracting a steady stream of members, including those who were

not particularly observant and did not identify themselves as religious. The movement did not check on anyone's religious observance, he said.

"We assert that Judaism does not negate democracy, it only strengthens it," Glantz said.

"The movement, he said, was for the rule of law. For example, it opposed having rabbis issuing halachic rulings on political issues. It was something that rabbis were forbidden to do, as well as being against the law.

Liav Collins adds: MK Alex Lubotzky (Third Way) said yesterday "not too much" should be read into his decision to sign up as a member of Meimad. "It is a movement not a political party," he said. "When they asked me to join up I did not find a reason to refuse." Lubotzky said he favored future cooperation between the Third Way and Meimad.

"If Meimad decides to run as a party in the elections, I hope it decides to do so with Third Way," he said.

Lubotzky is considered an asset to the movement because of his reputation in the Knesset as someone working to bridge the divide between religious and secular.

## Students reject PM spokesman's verbal assault

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Attempts to renew the talks among Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Treasury officials and student leaders continued behind the scenes yesterday, even as verbal broadsides were exchanged over the students' failure to attend a meeting with Netanyahu late Sunday night.

Student leaders vowed to continue the strike. Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz said the Histadrut would shut down the economy tomorrow, but he also urged the students to resume negotiations.

The students accused Treasury officials of using Netanyahu as the "good cop" in negotiations but restricting what he can offer.

Meanwhile, Netanyahu's spokesman Aviv Bushinsky said the current student leadership is "incapable" of ending the strike.

"A very, very negative dynamic of negotiations has developed here, in which... the prime minister is really trying to solve the crisis, but the Treasury restricts what he can do," Yossi Heller, leader of the student struggle, said in explaining why the students skipped the meeting.

Heller said the students had been facing another night of long discussions which they believed would again fail to deal with the main issues.

The students also complained that the late hour set for the meetings failed to take into consideration that many of the student leaders are on a hunger strike. Some 50 students are still conducting the hunger strike opposite the prime minister's residence.

Student spokesman Shmuel Algrabi explained that skipping the meeting was a legitimate negotiating tactic and that students had met with their advisers for three

negotiations. The students also reacted angrily to Bushinsky's claims yesterday morning on Israel Radio that they are "politicizing" their strike.

"It now seems clear to us that there are outside motives, definitely political considerations," said Bushinsky. "If the students seek alliances with the Histadrut... there is some foreign body that is manipulating them, because they themselves don't know why they are doing things."

Treasury Budget Director David Milgrom also criticized the students, saying they "have lost control and lack the will and ability to end the strike. In doing so, they are demonstrating a lack of

responsibility for the students who are missing classes."

But Eitan Zelig, a student leader and Likud activist, rejected Bushinsky's claims of politicization and said if someone in the Prime Minister's Office still believes it is political, they should know that thousands of participants in the demonstrations are Likud supporters.

Several dozen students participated in yesterday's demonstration opposite the Knesset by Mekorot workers, and students took their protest on the road, launching a motorcade which will hold demonstrations in various cities, ending in Kiryat Gat tomorrow.

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## Knesset panel considers help for Argentinian Jewry

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

To offset the financial crisis seriously threatening Jewish education in Argentina, the Na'aleh program to bring high school pupils from the former Soviet Union to study here may be expanded to Argentinian youngsters.

The suggestion was one of several raised during a Knesset Immigration Committee discussion of the subject yesterday.

Chairman Naomi Blumenthal recommended that a substantial amount of the

NIS 20 million to be allocated by the government for Jewish education in the Diaspora be earmarked for Argentina. Jewish Agency Director-General Shimon Shoshani and government officials plan to visit Argentina next week to evaluate the situation.

The economic crisis peaked with the bankruptcy of the two largest Jewish-owned banks in Argentina, Banco Patricios and Banco de Mayo, the latter owned by local Jewish community leader Dr. Reuven Beraja.

Flyers were distributed recently in a Buenos Aires Jewish neighborhood reading "Hitler = Dr. Beraja." Amos Hermon, co-chairman of the agency's education committee, told the panel. Meretz director-general Benny Temkin cited the appearance of newspaper articles attacking "ethnic banks," which have clear antisemitic overtones.

Outlining the crisis facing Jewish schools, Hermon said the bank crisis would likely eliminate the subsidies enjoyed by 40 percent of the 20,000

pupils. Registration is likely to decline sharply, he said, and participation in previously subsidized Israel summer programs is dropping.

"It was difficult for middle class Jews to pay tuition even when the classes were being subsidized by the community," Temkin said. "Now with that subsidy disappearing, this will be even more difficult, and this will lead to the closure of schools."

The Yerushalayim elementary school in Buenos Aires closed this week, its 400 pupils distributed among the remaining

Jewish elementary schools in the city. Hermon said.

Former Hashomer Hatzair emissary David Teitelbaum warned that the current crisis is also affecting Zionist youth movements which supply links to Judaism for Jewish youngsters who do not attend Jewish schools.

Hermon noted that despite the crisis and rising antisemitism, immigration from Argentina is down. Over the past 10 months, only 628 immigrants have come, compared to 1,080 in the same period last

year and 1,200 the year before. Absorption Ministry, Jewish Agency officials agreed to continue discussions aimed at expanding the Na'aleh program in some way for Argentinian youths.

Absorption Ministry assistant director Hanoah Tzamer added that a "Second Chance" program aimed at hundreds of Argentinian Jews who had lived here before is being prepared, along with other plans being specially tailored to Argentinian Jews' needs.

## ADL: Antisemitism declining in US

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — Antisemitic attitudes are declining in the US, although some 25 million Americans still hold hard-core antisemitic views, the Anti-Defamation League reported yesterday.

Some 12 percent of Americans believe a range of pejorative stereotypes about Jews, including that "Jews have too much power" and "Jews are more loyal to Israel than America." However, this is a decline from the 20% who had such views in 1992, according to the ADL's "Survey on Anti-Semitism and Prejudice in America."

Among the antisemites, 79% believe that "Jews are more loyal to Israel than America," a sentiment held by only 24% of the rest of the American public. More than half of all

Americans, 53%, are not antisemitic, the ADL said in its report, which is separate from its annual audit of antisemitic incidents in the US.

That leaves 35% in the middle. "That group troubles us because we're not really sure what would trigger that [antisemitic] latency," said ADL director Abraham Foxman.

And although black anti-Semitism declined, it did not drop as sharply as in the general population and remains alarming, Foxman said at a news conference.

The national poll of 999 American adults, conducted last month, found a correlation between antisemitism, age, and educational levels: older and less educated people are more likely to be bigoted.

Overall, Foxman said he is heartened by the findings. "It is a

real sign that Americans are becoming more tolerant and accepting of others."

Among observers, however, there is a growing sense that a society's treatment of Jews is not a fair barometer of its general tolerance, because other groups remain subject to bigotry and violence, such as gays in the US or Turks in Germany.

Foxman acknowledged that antisemitism may not be the "right measure" of tolerance within a society.

However, he pointed to the current chaos in Russia in which the Communist Party used classical antisemitism as part of its bid to regain power.

Antisemitism, he said, "still becomes the measuring rod of what is a healthy society. It doesn't mean there aren't other hatreds, but antisemitism has a certain resiliency."

## Rebbes hold reconciliation meeting

By HAIM SHAPIRO

After three months of strife, the Rebbe of Vizhnitz, Moshe Hager, went from his home in Bnei Brak to visit the Rebbe of Gur, Ya'acov Arye Alter, in Jerusalem. For most Israelis the meeting went unnoticed, but for the Gur and Vizhnitz Hassidim, it was a summit meeting of shattering importance.

The tension began when Vizhnitz accused Gur of taking all the positions in Agudat Yisrael. The Rebbe of Vizhnitz resigned from the Aguda Council of Sages and in the municipal elections he

told his followers to vote for Shas rather than Aguda.

A spokesman for Vizhnitz said yesterday that the two did not discuss politics, but an expert on Hassidism explained that it was easy to see that Vizhnitz had backed down.

"They didn't have to discuss politics. The fact that the Rebbe of Vizhnitz, who is over 80, went to visit the Rebbe of Gur, who is about 50, says it all. Vizhnitz capitulated," said Dr. Yitzhak Alfasi, an expert on Hassidism and author of a recent book on Habad.



French muscles bike for muscular dystrophy

The French Embassy yesterday organized a bicycle benefit ride from Jerusalem to Rehovot, some 60 kms., on behalf of children around the world suffering from muscular dystrophy. The ride began at Hadassah-University Hospital on Mt. Scopus and ended at the Weizmann Institute. Twenty-two other countries are also running their own benefit marathons in cooperation with France's Channel 2 TV. Hospital director Dr. Jacques Michel said he hopes the event will become an annual affair in Israel.

(Text: Judy Siegel/Photo: Avi Hayman)

## Clinton doesn't intend to visit Knesset while in Jerusalem

### AT THE KNESSET

By LIAT COLLINS and ARYEH DEAN COHEN

US President Bill Clinton plummeted in popularity in the Knesset yesterday when the House received signs that he does not intend to visit the Knesset during his trip to the region next month.

Clinton is scheduled to attend the convention of the Palestinian National Council in Gaza on December 14 and is expected later to visit Jerusalem.

It is customary for heads of states visiting Israel to come to the Knesset if it is in session and even address it on a first visit.

Clinton spoke in the Knesset plenum during an official visit in 1994.

The Knesset was planning a special festive session in his honor, although it now looks likely he will instead visit a local school.

### Comptroller: Ministers misuse documents

State Comptroller Eliezer Goldberg said yesterday that ministers and deputy ministers treat the documents in their offices as if they were personal property. In a meeting of the Knesset State

Control Committee regarding official documents, Goldberg said the ministers' attention should be drawn to the fact that the documents which reach them during their term in office are state property.

State Archivist Eviatar Preezel agreed with Goldberg's complaints and said there is no proper preservation of official documents. He said that in some ministries important documents have been destroyed. He called for more awareness of the importance of saving documents.

Committee chairman Yossi Katz (Labor) said he would initiate a bill which would make ministers and deputy ministers responsible for forwarding documents to the State Archives.

NIS 84.6m. approved for immigrant housing  
The Knesset Finance Committee

yesterday approved NIS 84.6 million for use by the Absorption Ministry for rental housing for new immigrants.

Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein had requested the funding, which will allow for another 1,500 apartments for immigrants.

An Absorption Ministry spokesman said the move would also prevent many elderly or needy immigrants from having to annually move from apartment to apartment.

Edelstein told the committee that the ministry is still trying to find permanent housing for immigrants who came here in 1990.

He said the new Public Housing Law has limited the public housing market, with only a small number of such apartments vacated since the law passed, compared to some 6,000 per year in years past.

### Pines-Paz protests decision not to discuss body parts controversy

MK Ophir Pines-Paz (Labor) yesterday complained that the Knesset Presidium had refused the request by him and MK Hanan Porat (NRP) to discuss in the plenum as an urgent motion to the agenda the way the remains of the commandos slain in Lebanon last year were buried without their parents' knowledge. The presidium referred the matter directly to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee without a preliminary debate on it.

Pines-Paz said the decision not to discuss the matter in the plenum shows "insensitivity."

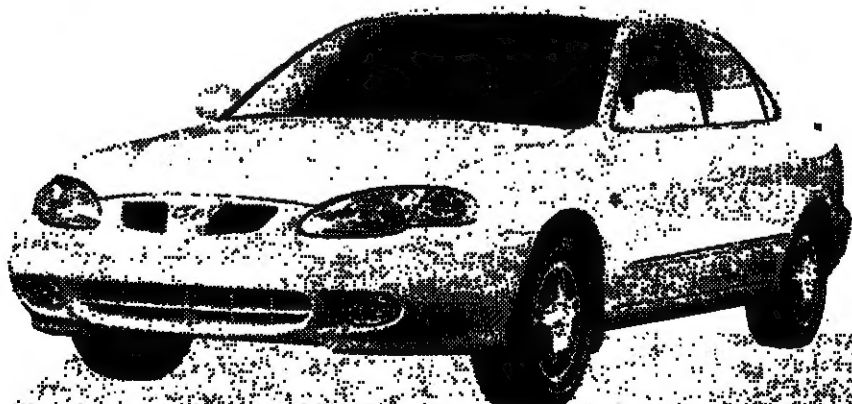
The Knesset spokesman however said the presidium's decision was made due to the sensitivity of the issue and out of respect for the dead. The plenum debates are all televised live. The committee will be able to hold a more thorough discussion and draw the necessary conclusions, he said. He noted that the IDF had stated that the procedures had been changed.

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## Police nab suspects in Mea She'arim attack

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER  
and LIAT COLLINS

Police have arrested ten suspects in connection with the destruction 12 days ago of an apartment belonging to three Swiss Christian women living in Jerusalem's Mea She'arim. They are expected to be arraigned within days, according to Jerusalem Police Commander Yair Yitzhaki.

Speaking before the Knesset Interior Committee yesterday, Yitzhaki said that because of the gravity of the incident, the police had established a special investigation team, and added that more arrests are expected, although some of those involved have left the city and gone underground.

Yitzhaki said arrests are also imminent in connection with another attack near Mea She'arim, which took place Saturday night in the apartment of a 17-year-old who had left the haredi fold.

Police believe a group of haredim broke a window in Ben-Zion Karmi's apartment on Shmuel Hanavi Street, then poured kerosene through the opening and set the place alight.

Police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said the attack was carried out by haredim, possibly belonging to the Eda Haredit Rabbinical Council's Modesty Patrol, and was not a criminal act involving debts, as reported in a religious newspaper yesterday. Ben-Ruby added that Karmi had also been beaten up three weeks ago.

Members of the Interior Committee voiced clear condemnation of both attacks. Although all the MKs were united in their call against violence and what many described as "a pogrom," Nissan Slomiansky (National Religious Party) asked why the women, who had been living in the apartment for more than three years, had chosen to live in the neighborhood. He later said the incident appeared to have been sparked off when a local child was found with missionary material.

Martha Knuti, one of the women who lives there said: "We have a good relationship with the neighborhood, which was important for us, and it's very important for me to say that I do not accuse these people. I have nothing against them."

Marcel Rebiel, representative of

a group to which the women belong, said the group has no name, but is a community or family dedicated to creating better Christian-Jewish-Arab relations and to pray for peace. He denied the group works as missionaries.

"We really believe Israel is in need of friends," he said. "Our aim is, as Christians, to give a sign of reconciliation and help the [Jewish] People..."

"Just to explain the connection between Christians and Jews is not easy," Rebiel said.

Committee chairman Micha Goldman (Labor) praised the police, but following comments by several MKs, called on it to ensure better intelligence in haredi neighborhoods.

But Shai Horowitz, spokesperson for Manof, a haredi think tank on current issues and a media watchdog organization, said the attack was perpetrated by a small group, and shouldn't be used as an excuse to condemn all haredim.

"The way of Torah is not the way of violence," he said. "Most haredi people are against this kind of behavior. It's just a very small group."



National service fair

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy attends the opening of a four-day national service fair in Jerusalem yesterday. Levy said that the conditions of women performing national service should be equal to those of their IDF counterparts.

(Brian Hendler)

## Israelis won't be prosecuted for gambling in PA

By LIAT COLLINS

Israelis who gamble at the Oasis Casino in Jericho might be technically breaking the law, but it is a safe bet they won't be prosecuted. More than one person at the Knesset Law Committee meeting on the subject yesterday used the word "anomaly" to describe the legal situation which has been created at the casino.

Committee chairman Hanan Porat (National Religious Party) noted that under the Oslo Accords, Israelis are still subject to Israeli law in the autonomous areas and gambling, which is illegal in Israel, is also forbidden to Israelis visiting Jericho. This is unlike the situation of Israelis who go abroad to gamble, he said.

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein said that although Israelis in the autonomous areas are subject to Israeli laws, the state has no

jurisdiction over Jericho and would not necessarily follow up cases of gambling.

"The finger will not be quick on the trigger," he said. "But citizens need to know that, from a legal viewpoint, it is a crime."

Rubinstein said Israel had been asked by the casino owners to show "indulgence" toward Israelis who visit the casino, but refused to agree to this.

Police Cmdr. Yehiel Halperin said that since the casino opened in September, there have been 11 complaints involving Israelis, including one concerning an attack on a photographer and one for breaking into a car. Most of the others were over counterfeit currency. Some 150,000 people have visited the casino.

Several MKs on the Left accused Porat of trying to act against the casino simply because it is in the autonomous areas.

## Eitan, FM disagree on desalination plan

By LIAT COLLINS

Israel must immediately begin a water desalination program to avoid a future crisis in water supplies, according to Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan.

His opinion contradicts the Finance Ministry's stand that the country can wait 10 years to start such a project and better use the money elsewhere.

"The tenders should be issued now; the sites of the desalination plants should be determined now; the procedure and planning should be decided on now. Now. This very minute," Eitan said.

He rejected the suggestion of waiting another decade as "unprofessional and divorced from reality."

Water Commissioner Meir Ben-Meir also criticized the Finance Ministry's projections.

"We should preempt and not wait another decade," he said. "If I am mistaken and we start to desalinate too early then we will have invested money which we could have waited to invest. But if the Finance Ministry is mistaken and as a result we suffer a lack of water because we have no desalination program, it will be a lack we will be unable to cope with."

However, Ben-Meir said the need for desalination is not immediate.

A former deputy water commissioner, Shaul Arlosoroff told Israel Radio that before desalination, which is expensive, the country should use the potential of the huge amounts of sewage which are not being sufficiently treated for reuse and are also a source of pollution.

He also said more effort should be put into preventing the waste of water in both the domestic and agricultural sectors.

Last week Likud whip Meir Sheerit and Labor MK Yossi Beilin submitted a bill under which the National Infrastructure Ministry would have to build a series of desalination plants, starting at Hadera, to be established by an entrepreneur chosen through an international tender.

Water officials next week will decide whether or not to continue pumping water from the Kinneret. The water level there is just 54 centimeters above the red line, at which no more water can safely be pumped.

Ben-Meir, however, said the water level meets expectations so far. "This is an arid country. We shouldn't be surprised every time at the water level," he said.

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## Never wrong, again

Cyprus is a part of Anatolia by means of geography, geology and climate," proclaims the first page of a fatuous piece of Turkish propaganda that just arrived in the mail. Its heading proclaims "Cyprus is not a Greek island."

Yes, certain democracies still pump out comic-opera propaganda against even their democratic neighbors.

The Turkish propaganda machine is finely tuned to react to any perceived slight to the great Anatolian ego. Greek Cypriot indignation over the current spy scandal obviously triggered this mail-to-media splurge denying Cypriot Hellenism on the grounds of geology and climate.

Italy is currently experiencing a deluge of Turkish abuse and trade sanctions for upholding its own constitution in refusing to extradite a Kurdish guerrilla leader to a country with a death penalty, not to mention several other gruesome ways of dealing with its enemies.

During the nine years I spent covering the Greeks and Turks, I came to the conclusion that the most tiresome aspect of dealing with Greek officials is that they are always right, but the worst part of dealing with Turkey's is that they are never wrong.

### What's a Greek?

The distinction is more than semantic. Greece's "always rightness" can be flexible about past sins. Turkey's "never wrongness" never relaxes. If there is any lack of ancient Greek culture in Cyprus — a place mentioned several times in Homer's literature before the Turks existed — it is in the north, occupied by 30,000 Turkish troops. There every mention of Greece has been expunged, or else looted and exported.

With a fine disregard for academic verity, the curator of Kyrenia Castle museum once informed me that the famous ancient Greek sailing ship, preserved there since before the 1974 Turkish invasion, is Turkish, and had been found by a Turkish Cypriot.

Since I personally knew the Greek diver, Andreas Karalis, who found it and who took a group of us down to see it being lifted, and later under preservation, the lie was transparent.

"No," the curator assured me with impressive denial, "you are wrong."

Turkey seems to live in a state of infuriating denial about some of its most appalling abuses of humanity. It is unbending in its never-wrongness. To this day, the Armenian massacre at the start of this century never happened. There have been no admissions, no apologies and no compensation.

### What's a Kurd?

For years the Turks refused to admit that Kurds even exist-

ed — there was no such thing, no Kurdish language, no Kurdish culture, nothing. It became so ludicrous that once I was chased through the Nicosia palace of Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş by a distraught Turkish aide who insisted that where

Denktaş had used the word "Kurd" in our interview, I must substitute the phrase "mountain Turk."

Turkey did not invade Cyprus of course, it was another of those Middle Eastern peace operations, although the image was somewhat spoiled by calling it Operation Atilla. And in the current row over the

European Union denying it membership, it is the EU that is totally out of order. Turkey is never wrong.

Turkey is always praised as the only Islamic country with a real democracy, but when the United States or Israel refer to Turkey, it is the word "strategic" that is most often heard.

Beneath the democracy, it is military might that ripples most visibly, like the muscles under the skin of a Turkish wrestler. It was the value of its military muscle that kept the US and NATO cravenly quiet during this democracy's invasion of Cyprus in 1974, during all the years of relentless warfare against the Kurds, during the vast catalog of human-rights abuses and police brutality documented by the United Nations and Amnesty International.

It is military muscle that is behind Israel's blind strategic alliance with Turkey that is damaging its relations with Greece and Cyprus. It carries the danger of spawning a new counter-axis in the Middle East — strategic alliances abhor a vacuum.

Military visibility in Turkey's domestic politics is directly proportional to the amount of Islamic activity in the political hinterland. It is the army's self-appointed role to maintain the secular character of a state that is 90 percent Moslem, but whose modern founder Kemal Ataturk forcibly wrenched into Westernization.

The Ataturk cult of personality still towers over Turkey, with his statues either vast or tiny never out of one's field of view. But there are plenty of Moslem Galilees around muttering "e pur se muove" — Islam still moves.

It is one thing to admire the success of Turkish democracy's separation of mosque and state — it is quite another to turn a blind eye to unacceptable standards of behavior for a democracy in terms of human-rights abuses and excessive military influence.

The European Union is correct to expect Turkey to conform strictly to its rules of entry, quite right to wait and see when the army can keep its hands entirely off the levers of state power.

"Strategic" just doesn't cut it as a European any more.

### Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

# Antisemitism storms Russia

By MAURA REYNOLDS

MOSCOW — Amid economic collapse, Russia has at least one growth industry: hatred.

In recent weeks, following time-dishonored tradition, some Russians have been blaming the country's woes on Jews.

The new wave of antisemitism is not just gutter talk. Disturbances laced with racial slurs have echoed repeatedly in Russia's highest forums — on national television, in front of the Kremlin and in Parliament. Some political leaders have shown support, or at least stood silent, while their compatriots have spewed vitriol.

It's ugly, but no one is yet sure whether it's dangerous.

"There could easily be isolated incidents of violence," said Alexander Moryl, who studies Russian ethnic issues at Columbia University. "But I'm doubtful this could lead to sustained outbreaks, at least for some time."

Antisemitism is as perennial in Russia as the snow. It tends to arrive in force during seasons of economic discontent, and it lurks beneath the surface the rest of the time as stubbornly as permafrost.

Nonetheless, the current storm is unusual in both strength and breadth.

It began in early October when a prominent and notoriously acid-tongued general, Albert M. Makashov, disgorged a stream of abuse during a public rally outside the Kremlin. His remarks were largely incoherent except for the use of a Russian epithet for Jews and the general suggestion that they should be identified and punished.

Makashov is a Communist deputy in the Duma, the parliament's lower house. Liberal lawmakers drafted a mild motion denouncing the general's remarks as "cause for concern." However, when it came up for a vote, Communist lawmakers abstained and the motion failed.

The controversy has intensified, with much of the discussion focusing on whether the Communists, and party leader Gennady Zyuganov in particular, are promoting anti-Semitism.

THERE'S an historical irony to that debate. The Communist Party espouses eternal loyalty to the teachings of founder Lenin, who at times wrote eloquently against anti-Semitism and Russian nationalism. Yet, especially since the Soviet collapse, the party has found itself ideologically adrift. As a result, Russian nationalism and its antisemitic corollary have become a kind of default ideology.

"The entire leadership of the party turned out to support not the Communist Makashov, but the anti-Semite Makashov," wrote Vitaly Tretyakov, editor of the *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* newspaper. "Now it is almost futile to try and prove that Russian Communism and Russian antisemitism are not one and the same thing." Even the Kremlin has been drawn into the fray, demanding a firmer response from law enforcement against "extremism." Federal prosecutors complied, opening an investigation into whether Makashov's remarks were an illegal incitement to violence.

"When the situation in the country becomes difficult, many feel an urge to look for enemies and culprits. You know which ethnic groups are being mentioned in this case," said Dmitri Yakushkin, spokesman for President Boris Yeltsin.

The country's three main television networks have devoted consid-



Antisemitism is as perennial in Russia as the snow, arriving in force during seasons of economic discontent. (AP)

erable air time to the debate, much of it highly critical of Makashov and Zyuganov.

The ORT network featured a mock-serious segment in which pedestrians were shown Makashov's picture and asked to identify his ethnicity. About half said he looked Jewish. The network then offered advice on how to measure facial features to ascertain racial purity and "ensure admission to the glorious future." Still, such heavy-handed ridicule does little to attack the roots of the problem, which are old and deep.

CZARIST Russia herded Jews into the region called the "Pale of Settlement," and it gave the world the word "pogrom." In Soviet times, Jews were excluded from some universities and professions and targeted by thinly veiled campaigns such as attacks on "cosmopolitanism." In the free-for-all post-Soviet period, racists and neo-Nazis have discovered new freedom to promote their ideas, and skinhead attacks against nonwhites

are reported to be on the rise.

It doesn't help the forces of tolerance that several Jewish businessmen and officials have played prominent roles in the economy's rise and recent fall.

At least half of the powerful "oligarchs" who control a significant percentage of the economy are Jewish. The reviled architect of Yeltsin's failed reform policies, Anatoly Chubais, is rumored to be Jewish, along with Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov, ousted deputy prime minister Boris Nemtsov and Yeltsin's wife, Naina.

Finally, even the Russian language has a conceptual difficulty with Jewishness. Although English has separate ideas of nationality and ethnicity, the two are combined in the Russian term "nationalist." In common parlance, one can be either Russian or Jewish, but not both.

IT is hard to tell where the current upsurge will lead.

There has been a backlash, particularly from the television networks. The influential "tabloid

*Moskovsky Komsomolets* printed a long article comparing side-by-side quotes from Zyuganov and Adolf Hitler.

In the wake of such criticism, the Duma on November 13 held a second vote and adopted a statement purportedly denouncing ethnic hatred. But the language was so vague that it could be read equally as criticism of the media.

For the time being, said Alan Rousso, director of the Carnegie Moscow Center think tank, the debate is generating a "permissive atmosphere" that could lead to some incidents of violence.

However, the Communists remain an opposition party without the levers of state control and riven by internal disputes. And so far none of the strong nationalists — primarily former General Alexander Lebed and Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov — are jumping on the antisemitic bandwagon.

"I don't think there's a Hitler in Russia right now," Rousso said. "On the contrary, Luzhkov — whose political star is on the rise —

is known to have good relations with Jewish leaders. He has denounced Makashov for 'savagery and neanderthalism that threatens to destroy the only thing that keeps us together in the Russian Federation — our multinational ties.'"

In fact, some analysts believe that there is a possibility that the anti-semitism debate may break open a rift in the Communist Party between social moderates and the nationalist hard line.

At a minimum, it has forced the defection of some prominent Communist allies. And it seems to have cooled Luzhkov's interest in an alliance, which some had seen as a way to unify the party around a centrist platform.

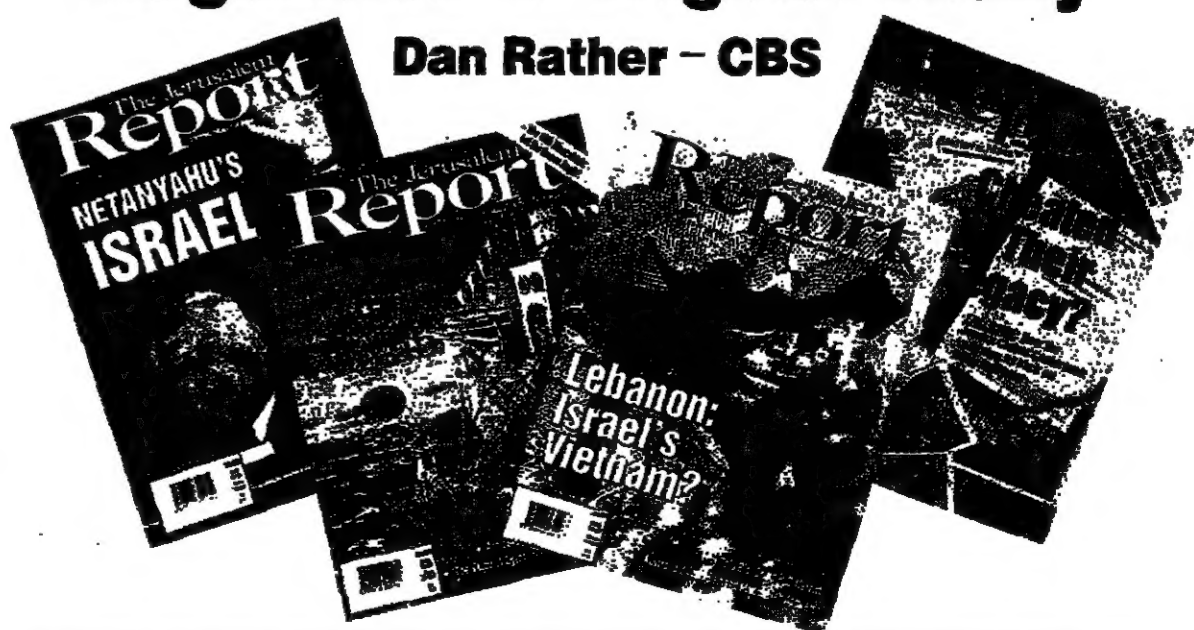
In the final analysis, Communists taking aim at Jews may wind up undermining their own party instead. Even Lenin, in his own way, seems to have foreseen the possibility.

"Scratch some Communists," he wrote disparagingly in 1919, "and you will find Russian chauvinists." (Los Angeles Times)

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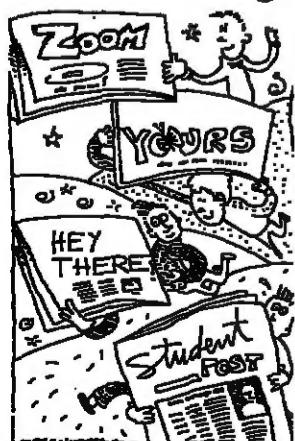
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سكرا من الاصل



# Ailing Yeltsin shown on TV

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian President Boris Yeltsin faces at least a week in the hospital to recover from pneumonia, but will probably receive more visitors for talks along the lines of those with China's leader yesterday, the Kremlin said.

Despite the official assurances, the latest deterioration in Yeltsin's health prompted fresh calls for an early presidential election and further set back his faltering efforts to show he can still rule Russia and tackle its severe economic crisis.

Russian television showed silent footage of Yeltsin shaking hands with Chinese President Jiang Zemin at Moscow's elite Central Clinical Hospital, where the Russian leader was admitted Sunday with pneumonia and was prescribed antibiotics.

By contrast, Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov was decidedly audible, urging security officials to crack down on corruption, extremism, and crimes such as the murder last Friday of parliamentarian Galina Starovoitova.

Primakov has taken on new responsibilities as Yeltsin's role has diminished, although the president retains control of Russia's nuclear arsenal.

Some politicians and at least one prominent Kremlin aide already call Primakov the unofficial vice president, although he shrugs off any suggestion he harbors presidential ambitions.

Russian stock and currency traders were unfazed by the news of Yeltsin's latest illness. They argue the damage has already been done to markets by Russia's economic chaos. Shares rose slightly and the rouble edged lower against the dollar.

"The fundamentals still stink," said one dealer.

Yeltsin, who goes to great lengths to try to show he is well and in political control, decided to



Guards and plainclothes police check cars yesterday at the gates of the hospital to which Russian President Boris Yeltsin (inset) was rushed with pneumonia on Sunday. (AP)

meet Jiang in the hospital. It was the first time in seven years as president that Yeltsin had received a foreign head of state in a such a way, although he has met visitors at residences outside Moscow.

Jiang arrived Sunday to give impetus to improving ties between the world's most populous country and its largest. The Kremlin said the two men discussed mutual ties and international affairs and would issue a joint statement.

Yeltsin, who had hoped that open heart surgery two years ago would extend his political life, has suffered

bronchitis, exhaustion, and irregular blood pressure in recent weeks and has taken a back seat in the day-to-day running of the country. Yet he rejects allegations by opponents that he is unable to govern and says he will serve out his term until mid-2000.

## 'New York Times': CIA hiding corruption reports

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The CIA is being more selective about reports it sends to the White House because Vice President Al Gore's office rejected several allegations of corruption by top Russian officials. The *New York Times* reported today.

One CIA report detailing alleged evidence against former Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was sent back with a barmy epithet scrawled across its cover, intelligence officers familiar with the incident told the *Times*.

The message, they said, was that Gore did not want to hear anything bad about Chernomyrdin, who as prime minister of Russia in 1995 had regular discussions with Gore about US-Russia relations.

As a result, the CIA has become more selective about distributing its information, agency analysts told the *Times*. For example, they decided not to circulate a report that a German businessman paid \$1 million for a meeting with Chernomyrdin, the newspaper said.

Chernomyrdin has been publicly accused of enriching himself through his influence over Gazprom, Russia's natural gas monopoly.

Gore would not comment on the reports, the *Times* said.

Several administration officials dismissed the CIA reports on Chernomyrdin, saying the CIA never presented enough evidence to back up the claims, the *Times* said without identifying them.

## Police question Starovoitova aide

ST. PETERSBURG (AP) - A badly wounded aide to a murdered lawmaker regained consciousness yesterday and was talking to police, who later arrested several suspects in raids around the city, officials said.

Galina Starovoitova, 52, a leader of the liberal Russia's Democratic Choice party, was shot dead by unidentified assailants on the stairs of her apartment building in St. Petersburg on Friday night.

The killing of such a prominent politician has caused an uproar in Russia and prompted calls from all sides for a crackdown on the country's growing lawlessness. Scores of business leaders and others have been gunned down in recent years in contract killings that are almost never solved.

The lawmaker's aide, Ruslan Linkov, 27, was in a "clear" mind, testifying to investigators, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported. Special police armed with assault rifles were standing guard at the door of his hospital room.

Acting on information from

## Ukraine man goes on trial for 52 murders

ZHYTOMYR, Ukraine (AP) - A man accused of the worst murder spree in modern Ukrainian history went on trial yesterday, charged with the deaths of 52 people after a trail of terror across the country.

Anatoliy Onoprienko, a forer and sailor, has confessed to the killings, his attorney said.

"I look at it very simply. As an animal. I watched all this as an animal would stare at a sheep," Onoprienko said of the slaughter in a videotaped 1997 police interview.

Dressed in running shoes, an oversized jacket and a knitted hat, Onoprienko sat calmly inside an iron cage as court proceedings began in Zhytomyr, 140 kilometers west of the capital Kiev.

Onoprienko, 39, spoke of growing up in a children's home after his father left the family and his mother died. During the proceedings, he never looked at Serhiy Rogozin, his alleged accomplice in some of the murders.

The charges against Onoprienko chart a rampage that first drew public attention in December 1995, with the slaying of an entire family in a secluded village home. Other killings were soon to follow.

## WORLD

in brief

### Cambodian leader Hun Sen given firm control

PHNOM PENH (AP) - Cambodia's top two political parties yesterday sealed a deal that will place Prime Minister-elect Hun Sen and his Cambodian People's Party in firm control of a coalition government.

Bitter enemies just a few months ago, Hun Sen and coalition partner Prince Norodom Ranariddh joked and laughed as they signed agreements of cooperation and toasted the new government with champagne, along with senior members of both parties.

The jovial atmosphere gave no hint of the two sides' armed confrontation last year when Hun Sen ousted Ranariddh as his co-prime minister in a violent coup.

After meeting for more than an hour, Hun Sen and Ranariddh signed a joint political platform and a division of cabinet posts that will give Hun Sen and the CPP tight control of fiscal and administrative functions.

### Space station orbits Earth without a glitch

MOSCOW (AP) - Russian and US ground controllers yesterday adjusted the orbit of the new international space station's first module to prepare for a rendezvous with another module next month.

The Russian-built *Zarya*, or sunrise, module has been smoothly orbiting Earth since a faultless launch on Friday.

Early yesterday, *Zarya's* orbit was adjusted for the third time since the launch. After another maneuver today, its orbit will be shifted from an elliptical one to a more circular one, at about 240 miles above the Earth.

This is the position required for a rendezvous with the American space shuttle *Endeavor*, which is to be launched December 3 carrying the *Unity* connecting module.

### EU lifts ban on British beef exports

BRUSSELS (AP) - The European Union yesterday agreed to lift a worldwide export ban on the vast majority of British beef, an official said. The development would be a milestone in the "mad cow" crisis that has pitted Britain against its EU allies.

A majority of the 15 EU farm ministers meeting in Brussels voted to scrap the ban on deboned beef, despite continued opposition from Germany, according to an official.

British farmers were badly hit by the ban on deboned beef, imposed in March 1996 after Britain announced a possible link between mad cow disease in British beef and a fatal brain ailment in humans called Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

Losses resulting from the ban have been estimated at more than \$3.3 billion.

### Wedding goes ahead after rioters wreck church

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) - Rioters crashed the wedding, chased away the guests, and wrecked the church. But Chandra Gunarto and his bride Threeway got married anyway.

"It's not how we wanted it to happen. But we have gone ahead with it," Chandra, a 27-year-old sales manager, said yesterday.

Sunday's wedding was interrupted when an angry mob of Moslem youths barged through the front doors of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church after running amok in Jakarta's Chinatown.

Thirteen people were killed in the violence and 10 other churches were burned or ransacked.

# STUDY IN BRITAIN

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## UN to discuss Iraqi oil sales

UNITED NATIONS - The Security Council yesterday afternoon was to discuss a proposal to allow the Iraq-UN "oil-for-food" program to continue for another six months, beginning Thursday, with a sales ceiling of \$5.256 billion.

The proposal by the four European Union nations on the Security Council is simply a rollover of the same conditions as the current six-month sales phase, which ends at midnight tomorrow. The council is expected to approve the resolution just hours before the deadline.

Still, Iraq has not said whether it will sell oil after tomorrow. Iraq's State Oil Marketing Organization over the weekend sent contracts for two-month extensions to the buyers of crude oil in the fourth six-month phase, which runs from May 30 to tomorrow.

Iraq wants to extend the current fourth phase of the sale by two months rather than enter into another six-month tranche.

## Thanksgiving

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Representatives from 40 leading universities in Britain will be arriving in Israel to participate in this two day event. Come and find out the answers to all your questions including information about professions, degrees available, courses on offer, admission fees and entry requirements.

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## The slogans seem hollow

A number of attempts have recently been made by sympathizers with the national student strike currently taking place to evoke romantic notions of the student uprising in Paris in the spring of 1968. The great ideas and slogans tossed around then, such as solidarity, social consciousness, and the image of students and workers joining hands to fashion a new society, are certainly stirring. The problem is that when concrete reality needs to be dealt with again, as it eventually was in France, the slogans often appear hollow and the strike leadership self-serving.

Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz, well aware of the power of the images, has taken to speaking of the formation of an "alliance between the Histadrut and the students as a social pact" between workers and intellectuals. A Sunday meeting between student leaders and the Histadrut brought forth heady talk of "battles against social injustice."

It is, however, becoming increasingly difficult not to suspect that, behind all the words, what is really developing is an alliance between politically savvy university students and a union leader eager to jump on a populist bandwagon. Peretz's decision to conduct a one-day Histadrut strike tomorrow in solidarity with the students — at the height of a difficult economic recession — will serve neither the interests of the workers nor the students, but will gain plenty more media hours for the Histadrut leader with a penchant for calling strikes on the slightest whim.

In truth, there are merits behind the students' claims that more resources need to be directed toward improving the higher education system, which has been somewhat neglected in recent years. Education should be granted the highest priority, especially in a country like ours which is the heir to a tradition of thousands of years of scholarship, is banking its economic future on brain-intensive industries, and encourages each individual to reach his or her highest personal potential. This should be one item uniting all of the political factions from right to left, and it is no surprise that the students' strike has generated a good deal of public sympathy.

It is not reasonable to expect students to work almost full-time while studying, or to repay loans on near-commercial terms. The country particularly owes an affordable and serious university education to those who dedicated critical years of their lives to defending it. A system of need-based scholarships and easy-term loans, similar to those in a number of other countries, can be instituted. At the same time, physical improvements in the universities, especially with regard to the construction of dormitories, are needed as well. The overall result of such steps should be the creation, for the first time, of true "campus atmospheres," enabling students to immerse themselves in their studies, earnest-

ly tackle academic issues, and even develop a social consciousness along with the analytical tools needed to deal seriously with social issues.

As a result of the student strike, in fact, the Treasury has come around to agreeing with most of the above points. The student leadership, however, having placed itself high up on the proverbial tree without a ladder, by stating at the outset that it would accept nothing less than a blanket 50 percent reduction in tuition fees, is having it difficult to finding the courage to resolve the strike on those terms. Since such bald monetary demands can seem a bit too self-interested, the strike leaders keep insisting that their goals go far beyond tuition to a "change in the country's social priorities."

When asked to spell out what that means, however, the students suddenly become extremely vague. Apparently, they fear treading on the powerful political toes of the haredi parties more than anything else. When student leaders state that it is not their business to decide where the Treasury gets the money tuition reductions would cost, because "we don't want others to lose out on our expense" they are exhibiting either gross cynicism or naivete.

The Treasury does not pluck money out of thin air, nor is it sitting on chests of treasure that it cruelly refuses to share. In reality, any money granted to the students will have to come at someone else's expense, either income-earners who will be further burdened by taxes, or painful cuts in other Treasury budget items.

The most obvious "change in priorities" in this context is to shift funds supporting yeshiva students, who do not serve in the military or work, in favor of easing the burdens borne by university students. In a world of limited resources, there are trade-offs dictating that more students of engineering, history, and social work. The student leaders, however, have apparently cut a deal with the haredi parties for political support, appearing less like romantic revolutionaries than small-time hacks.

The Histadrut is trying to align itself with the students in part because it is dismayed by its own shrinking base of support. Histadrut membership is currently crowded in labor-intensive "old style" industries. It is virtually non-existent in the high-tech firms that are rapidly becoming the real engines of the economy. This state of affairs, however, is due to wide-ranging social and economic developments, and it is unlikely that a Histadrut solidarity strike with students will be translated into unionized information-technology start-ups. The net result of all of these strikes and stirring slogans will, sadly, be a lost semester of studies and more pointless days of lost productivity, in an economy that cannot afford either.

## Ties that bind

ZALMAN SHOVAL

The initial behavior of the Palestinians, before this weekend's redeployment, has not augured well for the implementation of the Wye Memorandum. Even if some inflammatory statements were made for internal Palestinian consumption, experience has taught us that it is precisely that which Arab leaders say to their home audience that counts, not what they say in Washington.

And now that Wye is under way, we would also have liked to see a warning up of relations between the Arab countries and Israel. This, unfortunately, has not happened — at least not yet — and Egypt, our oldest peace partner, has been prominent in its unhelpful role.

This must concern us, because "final status talks" are just another name for shaping the structure of the way Jews and Arabs live with each other and next to each other, for generations to come.

GIVEN all this, as we approach final status talks with the Palestinians, the nature of the Israel-US relationship will become even more important than before.

America and Israel may not always see eye to eye on each and every aspect of the peace process; we never did. We sometimes will have to agree to disagree — though, as Moshe Dayan once said, there is no need to create unnecessary confrontations. Mutual trust is certainly vital for the relationship.

There have, for instance, been some questions as to how the US would react to a unilateral declaration of statehood by the Palestinians. The US is on record as being against the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Knowing how much the very continuation of the peace process and Israel's security depend on American undertakings, I do not doubt for a moment America's

adherence to its commitments in this matter — especially if the Palestinians, in total violation of the Oslo Agreement, should try to declare statehood unilaterally.

As for the final-status talks themselves, it still isn't clear how they are to be conducted, though one supposes there will be different channels, some more public, some less. It also isn't clear what role America is to play in these talks.

There hasn't been a single peace process between Israel and any Arab partner in which the US wasn't involved in one way or another — sometimes as a "prequel," to use a term from the movies, and sometimes as a sequel.

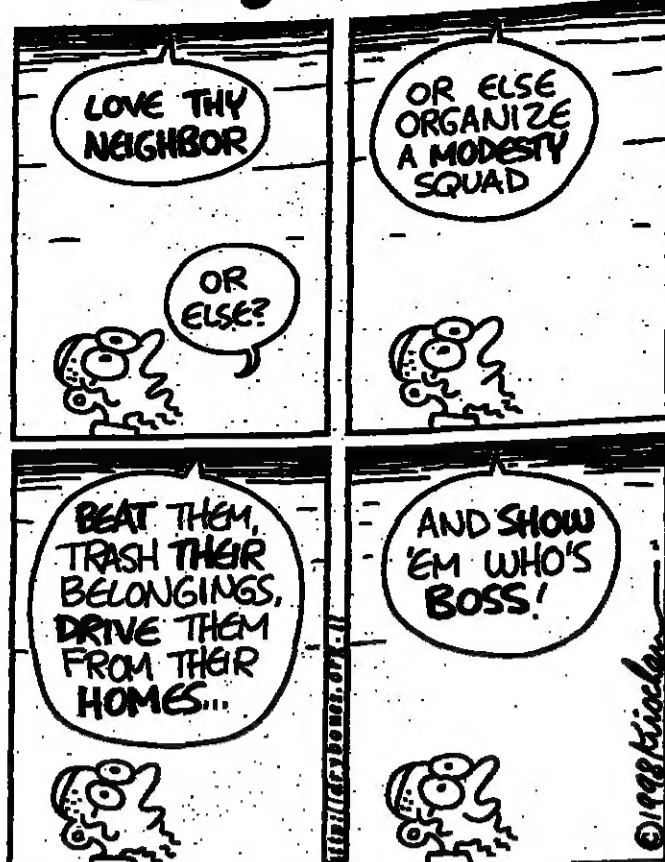
But I believe the American involvement was never as intense, as close, as it has been since Oslo. Frankly, I don't think this is a good thing.

First of all, peace must be made by the parties themselves — it's they who have to accommodate each other. And though everyone accepts that the US will always be there, whether it is inside the room or outside the room does make a difference — both psychologically and politically.

And there's also another aspect to consider: A too-close involvement by the US could create problems in the relationship between our two countries — and that's the last thing either of us needs. I believe the US shares this view and agrees that the final-status talks should indeed be bilateral and not trilateral.

THERE has been criticism of the role to be played by the Central Intelligence Agency with regard to monitoring or verifying Palestinian compliance with the Wye accord. Indeed, the CIA's involvement could sometimes turn out to be problematic, for Israel as well as the US, but it was the best solution, probably the only solution under the circumstances.

## Dry Bones



Israel, however, has to make an effort lest these potential problems in any way harm the very important — the perhaps much more important — cooperation between our intelligence communities in combating the common threats facing both the US and Israel in this and other parts of the world.

Indeed, with all the importance of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, Israel also has other serious concerns — many of them shared by the US — that go far beyond the peace process itself.

There is the looming threat of non-conventional weapons in the hands of Iran, Iraq, Syria, and perhaps Libya; there is the growing threat of terrorism — matters on which America and Israel must be closely

coordinated. In this context, one must underscore the importance of the Memorandum of Agreement which the president and the prime minister recently signed — one of the main aims of which is to upgrade strategic cooperation between the two countries and enhance Israel's deterrence capabilities.

As a matter of fact, America and Israel are, even now, the only two states that are already doing something about missile defense — and I hope there will be more.

The writer is Israel's ambassador to the United States. This article is an excerpted version of a speech he gave at last week's General Assembly of the UJA Federations of North America.

## Let the people decide

EVELYN GORDON

MKs who are advocating repeal presents a much uglier picture. What appears to be driving many of them is not concern for a manageable government, but, purely and simply, concern for their own seats.

Deputy Minister Michael Eitan (Likud) put it most bluntly. Immediately after the results of the municipal elections were announced, he complained that if the direct elections law were not repealed, the Likud would be only the third largest party in the next Knesset — and therefore, the law must go.

Eitan may very well be right. The Likud lost several seats in the last Knesset to Shas, the National Religious Party and Yisrael Ba'alya; Labor lost seats to Yisrael Ba'alya and the Arab parties. This trend will probably continue in the next election.

But stating this fact begs the real question, which is, why does the Likud have a god-given right to be one of the two largest parties in the Knesset? If the Likud is failing to serve its voters' needs, and these voters conclude that Shas or Yisrael Ba'alya is doing a better job, then what right does the Likud have to continue to exist?

LABOR Party leader Ehud Barak is taking the seat-saving principle one step further. He has proposed

not only repealing the direct elections law, but adding an amendment to the old system under which the head of the largest party automatically becomes prime minister. This would "sound the death knell of the small parties," and deprive the voters of even what little choice they had under the old system.

Under the old system, for instance, someone who wanted Shimon Peres for prime minister might be reluctant to vote for Yisrael Ba'alya — a swing party which openly announced its willingness to support either candidate for prime minister. But such a voter would have no qualms about voting for Meretz, which could be trusted to back Peres. Similarly, someone who wanted Binyamin Netanyahu for prime minister would have felt safe voting for the NRP, though not necessarily for Shas.

Under Barak's proposal, however, no voter who cared who the next prime minister was would dare to support any party but Labor or Likud. However much he felt that these parties were not representing his interests — and the results of the municipal elections make it amply clear that most voters think exactly that — any vote for a small party would automatically mean a vote less for his preferred prime ministerial candidate.

That most MKs are more concerned about their seats than about the need to have a functioning government is evident from the fact that none mention the obvious alternative solution to the problem.

This is the solution originally proposed by the drafters of the direct elections law, who never intended that law to stand on its own: direct elections for MKs as well.

Under direct regional elections, small parties would get many fewer seats, because it would be a winner-take-all system within each region, rather than the current proportional representation. Yet voters' choice, far from being reduced, would actually be increased: For the first time, they would have a representative who is directly accountable to them.

It is becoming increasingly clear that MKs cannot be trusted with the important matter of electoral reform, because their conflict of interest is too great. Not only has a bill for the direct election of MKs been languishing in the Knesset for years, but MKs are now joining forces to repeal the one step toward more voter choice that has been made in the last few years: direct election of the prime minister. The only solution is for the voters to decide the issue for themselves, directly. The repeal of the direct elections bill should be submitted to a referendum.

## After the impeachment war

RONALD BROWNSTEIN

when they wanted to take the lead in solving the nation's problems, 49 percent chose Clinton, while only 26 percent picked the Republican leaders in Congress.

IN THE coming session, argues GOP pollster Whit Ayres, Republicans must "demonstrate that the system as currently con-

legislation move forward. That same question looms over proposals to combat teen smoking. After last year's anti-tobacco package sank under its huge increase in cigarette taxes, Rep. Henry A. Waxman, D-Calif., and House Commerce Committee chairman Thomas J. Bliley, R-Va., drafted a tax-free alternative that would have

### Americans may not want Bill Clinton to date their sister, but they clearly want him to run the country

structed can work." If the two sides want to accomplish more in 1999, the obvious place to start is "with things that got close to the goal line last time," says Bruce Reed, Clinton's top domestic policy adviser. Two of those stand out.

Last July, a coalition of House Democrats and moderate Republicans came within five votes of passing managed care reform that would allow patients to sue their HMOs. After the election gave the Democrats five new House seats — and just as importantly changed the climate on Capitol Hill — Democrats believe they may now have a majority for that bill in the House, and possibly the Senate. The question will be whether the GOP leadership is willing to let the

clarified federal authority to regulate nicotine and imposed significant penalties on tobacco companies if teen smoking didn't decline.

That effort died when House Speaker Newt Gingrich ordered Bliley to snuff it out. But the Waxman-Bliley deal could easily be revived if the new House GOP leadership wants to show it can get things done. "If you were in the Republican leadership and trying to figure a way to chart a more reasonable path," says Reed, "you'd go there immediately." Two unanswered questions shadow all these possibilities. Neither side can seriously advance new spending or tax-cutting proposals until they decide how much of the budget surplus to devote to Social Security. And they can't do that

until they agree on a plan for reforming the system.

But the prospects for such an agreement look to be dimming.

Republicans probably won't accept a deal that does not establish individual accounts that workers could use to invest for their own retirement; but while Clinton hasn't closed the door, Democratic opposition to the idea hardened in this year's campaign.

With private White House economic forecasts projecting huge federal surpluses deep into next year, congressional Democrats may resist any significant restructuring at all. "I don't think you can reach a consensus (on Social Security) with the variance in thinking between the parties," says Cephardt.

That comment hints at the second major question looming over next year: In the end, how much does either side want to accomplish? After effectively tagging Republicans with a "do-nothing" label in this campaign, House Democrats may prefer a mostly stalemated session that allows them to reprise the charge in 2000.

And even if the new GOP leadership wants more achievements, it's unclear whether congressional conservatives — who generally consider confrontation with Clinton the key to revival — will go along. Even after the war over impeachment ends, it won't be easy to convince the two parties to lay down their arms for long.

(Los Angeles Times)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### GOD'S WILL

Sir, — I read David Weinberg's article "Accept no blame" (November 8) and was bothered by his accusation against "some religious circles" of which I consider myself to be a member.

I am referring to the story of the children dying in an Ofekim succa after their parents left them alone with candles burning. Weinberg mocks the remarks of the grieving mother. "It was God's will," she intoned piously, and condemns her for shifting the blame to God despite her own carelessness.

While it is true that one may not

blame God for his own irresponsibility, Weinberg takes her comment out of context, as the details provided in the article are inadequate. Consequently, the attitude of the religious groups that her words are meant to portray is misrepresented. This was not a case of gross negligence, the way the article portrays it. The father had been in the succa and left for a few moments to get a child a blanket. In the interim, another blanket caught fire and sent the entire succa aflame.

Weinberg can rest assured that

### PALE INTO INSIGNIFICANCE

same day we read that the Senate in America is being asked to pass legislation to make it a crime "to block access to medical facilities."

What prompts such a need? The activities of groups of anti-abortionists which culminated in the horrific murder of Dr. Barnett Slepian who was shot to death in the kitchen of his own home.

### MY MONEY!

Diapora kids. What about Israeli kids' education? Since when are parents not responsible for their own children's education? I absolutely reject and totally reject this.

Israeli tax money should be spent on Israelis. University students would certainly appreciate it, so would our beloved soldiers.

the mother feels indescribable guilt as a result of the tragedy. But at the same time, she was able to divorce herself from her personal loss and see objectively that her children's deaths were no coincidence.

When the mother said "It was God's will," she was neither foolish nor mistaken. On the contrary, there is much to be learned from her tremendous strength and unwavering faith in the face of such tragedy.

GENEDEL KROHN

Jerusalem.

Rather make Tel Aviv, massage parlors etc. pale into insignificance wouldn't you say Mr. Blumberg? You may be a "lover of Zion," Mr. Blumberg, but I can't quite admit to being a lover of America.

DAVID S. ADDELMAN  
Mevaseret Zion.

If British Jewry wants to save their kids from assimilation, that's OK by me. But please use your money, not mine. I need to worry about my own kids first!

SARA VAITZ

Kfar Sava.

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On November 24, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that a Jewish deputation was received by the High Commissioner and complained bitterly that the shortage of labor precipitated an economic crisis. They also asked for the regularization of illegal Jewish settlers

whose visas had expired, while over 100,000 Arab migrants from Syria, Hauran, Iraq and Transjordan were in the country.

50 years ago: On November 24, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that an unnamed Israel Merchant Navy ship had brought 4,000 new immigrants from Europe, most of

them from Bulgaria. The setting up of a Conciliation Commission to negotiate a final settlement in Palestine on the basis of the Partition Resolution was proposed to the UN Political Committee by Australia.

Alexander Zvielli



# An 'alternative' tour of Jerusalem

A terrorist-turned-tour guide who offers clients a somewhat different view of the city talks to Abraham Rabinovich about his work – and his past

His tour guide's course lasted 17 years – the time he spent in Israeli prisons – and the view of Jerusalem he offers his clients may be unique: that of an ex-terrorist, Marxist-Leninist, Moslem-born atheist.

Ali Jiddah stands inside Jaffa Gate searching the faces of tourists for likely clients. His business card introduces him as an "alternative tour guide" in English, French or Hebrew. The alternative is to the usual 4,000-years-of-history spiel. His focus is on now.

"I show what's happening inside the Old City. I show them [Foreign Minister Ariel] Sharon's house in the middle of the Moslem Quarter. I show them the Jewish settlers in the Moslem Quarter. I show them the huge gap in services between the Jewish and Moslem Quarters."

"I let them talk to Palestinians who are really serious about peace. My best clients are American Jews. They're very open-minded. I get Israelis, too."

Ali Jiddah, who once planted a bomb on the Jewish side of the city, is continuing the struggle by other means. Ali Jiddah is a resident of the "African Quarter" of the Old City, a small enclave just west of the Temple Mount containing 70 families of sub-Saharan descent. His father, from Chad, was among a group of African Moslems who came in 1936 on pilgrimage and remained.

Because Chad was a French colony, the French consulate subsidized Jiddah's tuition to the prestigious College des Freres, a Catholic high school near Jaffa Gate. He was 17 when the Six Day War opened the gate.

"I began to experience life under occupation, being stopped by soldiers and told to stand against a wall with hands up," says Jiddah. "Groups of Israeli civilians began to come into the Old City, sleeping and drinking in a very disrespectful way. I felt I was losing my dignity at both levels, personal and national."

"And don't forget, I'm black. To be a Palestinian is a problem, but to also be a 'kushi'..." (Among Arabs, it is only "primitive people" who mock his blackness, says Jiddah. "Among Israelis, the Ethiopian Jews are the most miserable group. They are not accepted.")

After the Six Day War, the French stopped paying his tuition, so Jiddah quit school and found a night maintenance job at the old Egged bus station near Zion Square.

He also joined the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), headed by George Habash. His first operational assignment, he says, came in the summer of 1968.

"Israeli planes attacked the Jordanian city of el-Salt, a civilian target. We got instructions to retaliate by attacking civilians."

In what came to be called in Israel "the night of the bombs," five PFLP members placed explosive charges in western Jerusalem. Jiddah planted his in a garbage bin near Bikur Holim Hospital, its detonator set to explode an hour later. He was in bed at home, pretending to his parents to be sleeping, when the bomb went off, wounding nine people.

Two weeks later, four other members of the cell went to Tel Aviv to plant bombs near the central bus station. One of them was caught and, under interrogation, revealed the names of the entire cell. Jiddah was arrested at home that night by the General Security Service.

"I didn't play games; since all was known to them, I was sentenced to 20 years," he says.

PRISON was where Ali Jiddah's higher education began. "At first we weren't permitted to have books. Then we staged hunger strikes and books were allowed."

Terrorists were kept apart from other criminals and developed a highly organized routine. Each political faction would hold its own study sessions.

"We discussed ideological, political, and social issues. We studied languages. I studied



After his release from prison, Jiddah says, 'I swore I would do my best to save Jerusalem – but by other means. No more violence.'

(Brian Handler)

Hebrew and was asked to give lessons in English and French, which I had learned in high school. I began to raise my political awareness with older comrades, who were more politically aware than me."

The members of the PFLP, which advocates Marxism-Leninism and atheism, clashed initially with members of Fatah and other groups, but this soon resolved itself.

"We agreed to put our differences on the shelf, otherwise we would be totally broken," he recalls.

Members of the PFLP would address each other as "comrades" or "brothers." There would sometimes be discussions in which members of different groups

participated.

"Prison is the most horrible experience you can have," says Jiddah. "But what happens there depends on you. You can make it a productive experience or you can be broken."

JIDDAH thought the Israelis would never release him, not even after 20 years.

"I programmed myself on the basis that I would spend the rest of my life in prison," he says.

As it turned out, he was released three years early in the prisoner exchange with Amos. Jiddah's organization in 1983.

"I wish I could relate that day they released my group in Ramallah. There were TV teams

waiting for us. I was talking to French television when two Palestinians I didn't know grabbed me by the shoulders and put me in a car. They also took my cousin, who had been arrested with me."

"The men were from the PFLP. They took us to Jerusalem. All the residents of the African Quarter were waiting outside to greet us. It was a tremendous scene. At 10 that night we were all sitting in a big hall when some friends asked if there was anything I would like to see. I said, 'Please take me to the Mount of Olives.'"

"I exposed myself to the other side of the wall, the other side of the African Quarter. Five years ago he gave up journalism and began working as a guide. He is optimistic, says Jiddah,

"I said to myself 'Ali, you're free now. What are you going to do?' I swore I would do my best to save Jerusalem but by other means. No more violence."

Jiddah worked for several years after his release as a journalist. He has been interviewed several times on Israel Television as a spokesman for the PFLP although, he points out, that is an unofficial designation since the organization is outlawed.

He married an Israeli Arab from Acre with whom he has four children. Their apartment is close to that of his father, who is mukhtar of the African Quarter. Five years ago he gave up journalism and began working as a guide. He is optimistic, says Jiddah,

that a political solution to the ongoing conflict will eventually be found, even for Jerusalem.

"Otherwise there will be a very big mess in this region."

He still believes in socialism. "If it failed in the Soviet Union it doesn't mean that it can't work," he says.

Having spoken to a visitor in a coffee house, Jiddah shows him the African Quarter, where "brothers" are adding a room to someone's apartment.

"We never hire people from the outside; we help each other," he explains.

Jiddah then hurries back to his room near Jaffa Gate to seek out friends. There is a family to be fed and a cause to be served.

## In love with vertical surfaces

Bradford Washburn has a favorite phrase: "Skin one skunk at a time." The critters out there know better.

At 88, Washburn still walks, shoots and maps mountains, and directs projects simultaneously as the mountaineer, photographer, cartographer and manager. He's been in a 65-year career that he won't quit.

"I can't see playing shuffleboard in Florida," he says. "I'm on the cutting edge of the twilight of life."

His is a life in love with cold vertical surfaces. He climbed Mount Washington and other New England hills to ward off hay fever as an 11-year-old in 1921. (It worked.) Then came Europe's Matterhorn and Mont Blanc as a teenager, followed by unknown Alaskan peaks after his 1933 graduation from Harvard.

For many years, he influenced climbers by writing articles and taking photographs for *American Alpine Journal*, suggesting new routes he was too busy to try. "I got almost as much of a bang out of that as if I had climbed them myself," he says.

Washburn, who lives in Boston, has a lined, weathered face and a trim frame that darts back and forth as his blunt, sometimes profane, talk caroms off different topics. Lately, he's been measuring mountains with the satellite Global Positioning System – and courting controversy.

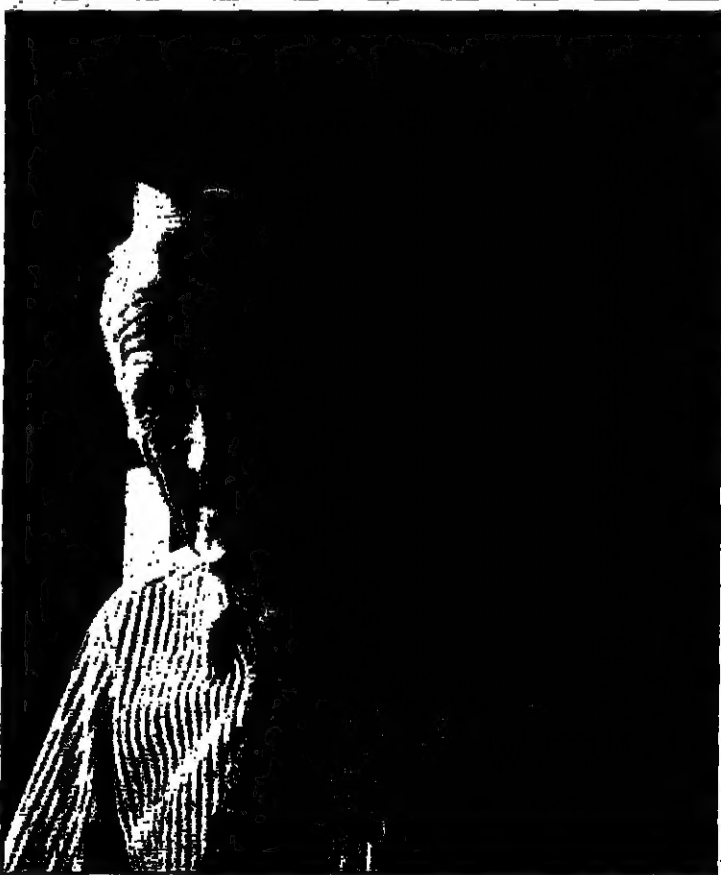
Washburn says his photographs and GPS measurements, made in July with his wife, Barbara, 84, conclusively establish that explorer Frederick A. Cook never made it to the summit of Mount McKinley in 1906, as claimed. It's hardly a new thought – Washburn has been debunking Cook's claim for 40 years. But this evidence, he says, is definitive.

"So long, Dr. Cook," he crowed in a public announcement last month, adding with glee, "The Cook people will tear us to pieces."

Sure enough. "Washburn's relentless, obsessed by this; he won't let it rest," answers Russell W. Gibbons, of the Frederick A. Cook Society, which continues to insist that Cook was the first or could have been the first on top.

FROM his office at the Museum of Science, which he headed for 41 years before "retiring" in 1980, Washburn also directs a

Ernest F. Imhoff meets a venerable mountain mapper



Washburn: Courting controversy at 88.

(The Baltimore Sun)

Mount Everest project that placed a GPS device at the summit this year to measure the speed at which India is pushing under the Tibetan plateau and raising Everest.

"Mountains move in centimeters," he says. "Everest is rising and going northeast. Nepal is getting a tiny bit of China daily and no shots are being fired."

WASHBURN has known many adventures. In 1937, Amelia Earhart and her husband interviewed him as a possible navigator on her flight around the world. Washburn, a pilot, advised them to put a radio on tiny Howland Island, 2,000 miles from Australia, or, he said, she would never hit it. She disagreed, did not offer him the job – and flew off to vanish over the Pacific.

"Her death made me sick. It was so preventable," Washburn

says. "She was a delightful girl and was in many ways an excellent pilot [but] pathologically self-confident. Amelia didn't listen to anybody."

Washburn likes a little water-ski on Squam Lake in New Hampshire, but no longer does technical mountain climbing – with ropes, pitons, ice ax and crampons. He misses it "terribly" but tries to surround himself "with lots of bright young people."

Washburn made a number of first ascents in Alaska and Canada. In 1931, he and six others pioneered the West Buttress Route on McKinley, now the most popular. His other ascents of McKinley were in 1942 and, with Barbara, in 1947, when she became the first woman to climb the mountain.

She says she had to make the climb. "If I hadn't gone, I'd have been bored stiff listening to him talk about it when he came back

home," she says. "You have to share things in marriage."

Married in 1940, Barbara came to enjoy climbing: "I liked the adventure, the companionship of sitting around at night, the marvelous scenery." Washburn's maps delight climbers; they also hang in lowlanders' homes and in museums as art.

Washburn's startlingly detailed pictures, taken over a 50-year span, became definitive maps of the St. Elias Range in Alaska-Canada, Mount Kennedy in the Yukon, the Grand Canyon, Mount Everest and New Hampshire's Mount Washington, as well as McKinley.

FOR all his passion for mountains, Washburn says he would like his obituary to lead with: "He had the idea of a Boston Museum of Science, and he built it."

He has been credited with transforming a hole in the wall known as the New England Museum of Natural History in 1939 when he took it over at age 29 into what supporters say was the first museum in the world to unite natural history, physical, applied and medical science.

He hired his wife as secretary. "She's the best thing that ever happened to me," he says.

When he left the museum, he was ready for old projects deferred, such as mapping Mount Washington and Mount Everest. He had never climbed Everest, but he considered the existing map of the mountain "lousy."

Just as crisscross flights over Everest were to begin in 1984, Barbara became deathly ill in Kathmandu, Nepal. She and Bradford flew to Bangkok, Thailand, where doctors diagnosed cancer and said she had days to live.

The Washburns flew home to Boston, while friends such as the late Barry Bishop, a *National Geographic* magazine colleague who reached the summit of Everest, took over Washburn's dream project on Everest.

Boston doctors found that Barbara's illness was not cancer but a rare disease, Wegener's granulomatosis. Her recovery to remission took four years.

Meanwhile, the friends produced 360 faultless vertical stereo photographs of Everest from which, in 1988, Washburn completed the map.

(The Baltimore Sun)

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## Wanted: A long, healthy life

As much as I care about my physical condition, I've never been able to stretch my periodic well-intentioned regimens into what one could really call a "healthy lifestyle."

Sure, I've had short flirtations with vegetarian diets, engaged in regular exercise for months, even years, and periodically given up caffeine, but the containers of Haagen-Dazs in the supermarket, the neighborhood espresso bars and the sofa in front of the television always proved far too tempting.

Also, as life grows more complex, one has less time to focus on one's body. What with work and family, it's harder to find the time for a daily workout (unless stroller-pushing and toddler-lifting counts). And after celebrating all-night pajama parties with sleepless offspring, attempts to forgo caffeine can both endanger one's career and make one positively hazardous on the highway.

Still, like anyone else who is interested in hanging around the planet for yet awhile, I do pay some attention to what I am supposed to eat and try, within the confines of my life and willpower, to consume what is best and choose accord-

but still constantly on the lookout for the magic bullet that will instantly turn us and our loved ones into marvelously healthy, long-living creatures.

Those who market and advertise the mainstream products clearly recognize this and prey on our ignorance.

The latest and most blatant example of this is currently on our dairy shelves. Dairy products were once marketed in the most pastoral of ways, with buxom peasant girls and happy cows singing the praises of their creamy white output. But now dairy has gone high-tech.

Instead of telling us how delicious their products are, our friendly dairy companies are selling pharmaceuticals — promising us that the regular consumption of the right kind of yogurt will send legions of magic bacteria shooting around our digestive system, killing off everything unhealthy.

The products are sold in stark little white containers purposefully designed to look more like medicine bottles than food containers.

It's a pretty hard concept to get used to. After all, this praise of bacteria goes against everything we were ever taught as we were growing up. I always thought that bacteria

**And I always thought bacteria floating around your body was a bad thing....**

**Now bacteria are my friends?**

ingly for my family.

The problem is that the more attention I pay to the subject, the more utterly confused I become. Every study seems to contradict the last.

One year the key to health is bulking up on carbohydrates and eating a lot of bread and pasta. The next year, carbs are out and protein is in: Just stick to the fish and vegetables. (My husband, about as far from a health nut as one can get, is convinced that it is just a matter of time before a study endorses steak and chocolate cake.)

But I haven't totally given up on self-improvement. I was recently inspired to investigate the matter once again when a health-food store opened up in my neighborhood. It was the same health-food supermarket that existed in my old neighborhood.

I would occasionally wander in, only to emerge — head spinning — for coffee and a muffin at the Dunkin' Donuts next door.

When I checked the place out again last week, I was daunted not only by the vast variety of herbs, nuts and powders, but also by the price of the organic produce.

I suspect that most of the population is a great deal like me — lacking the time, energy or inclination to bang out in health-food stores or learn 20 different ways to cook tofu —

floating around in your body was a bad thing.

I was taught to scrub my hands several times a day with anti-bacterial soap so the bad bacteria and germs didn't get into my system. And my college friends who returned from forays to the Far East years ago still curse the exotic evil bacteria that plague their innards.

After all this I am supposed to understand that bacteria are my friends? And I am supposed to gulp down yogurt from those little containers (no fruit flavoring — that would make them too tasty) because of the good bacteria that float around inside them?

The marketing campaigns for some of the products are pretty funny — very futuristic with weird-looking hooded ladies in white doing somersaults in the air, looking like something that just landed from outer space.

I still haven't figured out if the actors are representing the bacteria themselves, or the superhumans who benefit from ingesting the healthy white stuff.

I suppose the futuristic, spaceship look of the advertisements is supposed to imply that if we eat enough yogurt we'll all make it well into the new millennium.

My question is this: If all of our food is healthy but nothing tastes very good, do we really want to live that long?

### Home Front



Allison Kaplan Sommer



Whitefish salads, chopped liver, blintzes and other foods beckon a mixed and hungry crowd at the kosher food fair. (AP)

## Kosher means trendy

It turns out everybody's after kosher food — and not just matzo balls and gefilte fish. Amy Westfeldt reports from New Jersey's Kosherfest

Chef Ann Cooper bent over a pan, showing a crowd how to make seared venison with wilted greens and roasted new potatoes.

Around the corner, hungry visitors waited impatiently for a pizza to come out of the oven. A man grabbed a few cookies from another booth, while a handful of people grazed on foie gras.

Welcome to Kosherfest '98, the United States' largest-ever gathering of restaurateurs, hoteliers and food makers getting together to show that kosher food goes way beyond the traditional Jewish foods of blintzes and matzo balls.

"Everybody wants it," said Jack Slomowicz, manager of a kosher supermarket, delicatessen and cafe opening in Cleveland, Ohio, in December.

The 10,000 visitors at this 11th annual food fair at the Meadowlands Exposition Center broke a record. New York restaurants serve kosher Cajun, Chinese and Mexican. Kosher concession stands popped up this year at Shea Stadium and at the US Open tennis tournament.

Foods that are certified as kosher post \$45 billion in US sales a year — only \$4 billion of the sales to Jews observing dietary restrictions. Kosherfest organizers said.

Big businesses are trying to cash in on kosher popularity, seeking certification for thousands of products to satisfy those who must keep kosher for religious reasons and consumers who just think that kosher sounds good.

Most Nabisco products, like Chips Ahoy! cookies and Planters peanuts, have been kosher for years. Oreos were just certified as kosher last year. M-and-M candies are kosher. So are Bannick's chocolates, Arizona Iced Tea, Her's potato chips and Budweiser beer.

"There's a huge sales opportunity with the Jewish market," said David Picataggio, an M-and-M-Mars sales rep.

Most people just think that kosher is hip and healthy, experts say. "They think of it as just being better," said Menachem Lubinsky, president of a company that specializes in marketing kosher foods and the Kosherfest organizer. "They perceive that it's healthier."

Although kosher doesn't always mean healthy, manufacturers say the seal that shows a kosher certi-



'Shrimp' that's allowed for Orthodox Jews: Kosher foods post sales of \$45b. a year in the US. (AP)

fication on products makes it easier for people following special diets to eat.

Lactose-intolerant people can eat kosher pizza with dairy-free, tofu-based cheese, or tofu cheese-cake from a kosher bakery. Diabetics can use sugar-free honey substitutes.

"Would you like to try some of our delicious organic bread? No fat, no sugar, no oil, no salt," Helen Davis called out to customers, hawking her oatmeal, sourdough and raisin breads.

Davis, the owner of Windmill Farms, said most of her sales come from health food stores. "Which has nothing to do with kosher."

And Robert Scheckman, marketing director at Manischewitz and Co., said the leading kosher food producer is reaching out to customers who just want a quick

dinner.

At this fair, Manischewitz displayed single-serving cups of matzo ball soup and instant dishes of risotto, rice and beans and chili. Sales are up 50 percent over the past four years, he said.

Exotic tastes were also satisfied at one of several sushi bars.

Bernard Benlevi stood by a chef sliced a tuna-and-avocado sushi roll. All fish was available except for eel, crab and shrimp, although he offered shrimp-shaped, red-and-white striped pieces of processed whitefish.

The variations are "showing kosher food in a light that is, if not trendy, at least contemporary," said Cooper, a Vermont chef and consultant at the Culinary Institute of America.

"It's not like kosher is just gefilte fish."

### GRAPHIC

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Israeli MTV broadcaster Eden Harel has been selected to emcee this week's Miss World Beauty Contest. The bright, sassy beauty may very well put some of the contestants to shame.

COMEDIAN Tuvia Tsafir, who each year gives his services free of charge to The Jerusalem Fund for Alyn, went one better at the fund's 13th annual dinner dance. Tsafir, who during this jubilee year has been including the founding fathers and mothers in his repertoire, mingled at the cocktail reception in his Golda guise, offering the guests gefilte-fish balls. He was somewhat put out by the absence of horseradish (or *hrain* as he called it), but guests followed him around like the Pied Piper.

Guest of honor at the dinner, held at the Jerusalem Hyatt, was 12-year-old Arik Mahal, who, after being hit by a truck, spent nine-and-a-half weeks in a coma. His mother, Jackie, told a moving story about Arik's slow road to recovery, stressing the tremendous role Alyn had played in giving him the therapy he needed to operate his computer and get back on his feet.

Among those who heard Arik's story were Jay and Ruby Karasz, Stanley and Helen Goldfoot, Pesach and Shoshana Schindler, Larry and Marilyn Frisch, Alex and Naomi Ragen and Sandy and Shirley Brown.

UNLIKE Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon does not have General Security Service personnel standing on stage with him when he has to make a speech. But that doesn't mean Tichon mounts the podium alone. He's accompanied by his uniformed Knesset officer, Miri Yachin, who takes her place alongside the Speaker and occasionally sandwiches him in between her and his wife, Ludmilla.

ACCORDING to Napoleon, an army marches on its stomach. So apparently, does a GA convention. One night last week, there were so many receptions for GA participants that one young woman was heard to say at the Hebrew Union College reception that she would be skipping dinner and going on a reception crawl.

In fact many people, attending the HUC affair, which was one of over a dozen food orgies, were so intent on feeding their faces that Rabbi Richard Hirsch, executive director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, could not get the crowd to gather around him for a few words of welcome, although he was using a microphone. Hirsch eventually got enough attention to put across his message that, without a liberal movement, Israel would be incomplete.

Some of those present at the HUC reception included HUC president Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman, Bernard Levin of the UJA Federation, New York, Doris Fogel of the Fort Wayne Federation, Barry Shtrage of Boston, Rabbi Daniel Allen of New Jersey, Rene Lake of Switzerland, Mark Taylor of the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati and Betty Alenbergh Goldstein of the Birmingham Jewish Federation.

THERE have been some interesting proposals as to how to heal the rifts between different sectors of Israeli society, but none so novel as the idea proposed by government economic adviser Dr. Yossi Vardi, who was one of the panelists at a GA session. Vardi suggested that all the different Israeli factions break up into smaller states, so that "we can have greater representation at the UN." That's a new take on "divide and rule."

PRESENT at last week's reunion at the Hebrew University's Rothberg International School for alumni of the one-year program were several North Americans who might not have come had they not been in Israel for the GA. One who didn't have quite so far to come couldn't, and a sent a letter of regret. His name is Daniel Kurtzer, and he happens to be the US ambassador to Egypt.

PHILIPPINE Ambassador Rosalinda de Perio-Santos did not expect to arrive at her first state dinner as new dean of the diplomatic corps in a tow truck.

She was on her way to Jerusalem from her home in Herzliya Pituah when she noticed smoke coming from the engine of her car. Her driver was unable to correct the fault, and the meticulously punctual de Perio-Santos began worrying that she would be late to Beit Hanassi, where President Ezer Weizman was hosting a dinner for his German counterpart, Roman Herzog. Fortunately, a tow truck driver in front of her offered to tow her car to Jerusalem — and offered her a seat in his cabin.

Her evening dress being slit on both sides, de Perio-Santos was able to climb in without too much trouble, even though she was wearing stiletto heels. But getting out proved a different story, and the new dean of the diplomatic



Pushkarna: Thanks — but no thanks. (Israel State)

corps had to jump for it in more ways than one.

Security personnel were outraged when they saw a tow truck parking outside Beit Hanassi, and ordered the driver to move, pronto. Explanations that the dean of the diplomatic corps was a passenger fell on deaf ears, and de Perio-Santos had to make a speedy exit. She quickly regained her composure.



Shalala: ties here



Tichon: 'sandwiched'

sure, however. Getting home was no problem: The Austrian ambassador, a neighbor, gave her a ride.

IF she were interested in politics, exotic restaurateur Rens Pushkarna could easily run for the next Knesset. Israel's Indian community, which believes that it is entitled to Knesset representation, has founded a new political movement called Hodaya, which it wants her to head.

While agreeing with Hodaya's goals of non-violence, tolerance, the advancement of women, the correction of injustice and discrimination, the promotion of education, fraternity and the achievement of peace, Pushkarna has no aspirations to personal political power — but said she was flattered to be asked.

FRIENDS from many phases of his life will swap anecdotes about Able Nathan's quest for peace in the Middle East at a special tribute to the man whose Voice of Peace broadcast for so many years "from somewhere in the Mediterranean." The event will take place on Sunday evening at Tel Aviv's Tzavta.

PRECEDING US President Bill Clinton to this part of the world will be US Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna E. Shalala, whose visit here is not so much connected to the implementation of the Wye Memorandum as to a university awards ceremony. Shalala is to receive an honorary doctorate from Haifa University on December 4. Her visit here — not her first — will be welcomed by local feminists, many of whom remember her participation in a 1981 international conference on The World of Women, which, coincidentally, was held at Haifa U.

A firm proponent of women's rights, Shalala is considered one of the most powerful women in the US. She is being cited for her attainments in matters of equality and social welfare, and the advancement of the status of women, minorities and children. Shalala has emotional ties to the Middle East. She was born into a Lebanese Christian family, and, during a two-year stint in the Peace Corps in the early 1960s, served in Iran. When last in Israel in 1994, in her present capacity, Shalala met with Israeli and Palestinian, whom she encouraged to initiate joint projects to raise the standards of medical care.

## My libido doesn't match his

Dear Ruthie, I am a woman in my early fifties, married to the love of my life, who is considerably older than I. As luck would have it, he is still very interested in sex and — with the help of Viagra — even more so than before. I, on the other hand, have found myself declining very rapidly in this area.

We were always very romantic, compatible and liberated where sex was concerned. Making love was always a joy. Now, while still loving my husband dearly, I am at a loss as to how to handle this problem.

I have tried hormones, but found that I put on a terrific amount of weight, which is not only not good for me, but not pleasing to my husband. Furthermore, the effect of the hormones, in my case, was meager.

This is a real crisis. My husband is patient and understanding, but also puzzled and frustrated.

I don't know how to get past this. Fake it? Watch pornography? I even got to the point of suggesting he take a lover! I'm not sure if I was serious, and the idea was rejected by my husband, who wants only me.

I should thank my lucky stars, I know, but I need some insight because I am at my wit's end. At a (Sexual) Loss? Somewhere in Israel

Dear At a Loss,

The reason you should "thank your lucky stars" is not only because your husband is devoted, faithful and attracted to you, but because you still consider him the love of your life. This indicates that the loss of your sexual appetite is more of a physiological than a psychological problem. If so, your first move should be to consult a doctor. That you tried hormones which didn't sit well does not mean there are

no other alternatives. But for these, you have to do a little research and shopping around (and I don't mean for pornography). Perhaps you could find a gynecologist or other internist who combines conventional medicine with alternative remedies.

What you might consider, too, is that you are now in a vicious cycle in which your anxiety about your lowered libido in the face of your husband's active one is beginning to form a major part of your problem. There is nothing like anxiety to make sex seem like a totally foreign concept, let alone an activity in which you might wish to engage.

It is the cycle of anxiety and abstinence that you need to break. For this you might consider undergoing some kind of short-term therapy (which need not be "sex therapy," by the way.) You might examine why you suggested your husband take a lover, while you're at it. Maybe you were testing him. Or yourself.

You also might consider the possibility that your husband — who is several years your senior — is so keen not to slide in this area that he is placing more emphasis on sex than his natural (physical) inclination. The fact that someone whose libido is still going strong should be getting extra help from Viagra makes me wonder about what he is "up" to emotionally. This is particularly puzzling, if he is meeting with resistance from you, which is causing him frustration. He might want to undergo a little therapy himself. Or at least a bit of introspection.

In the meantime, either both of you chuck the pharmaceuticals, or both partake of them.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000. For e-mail: Ruthie@post.co.il ("Dear Ruthie" also appears in The Jerusalem and in City Lights on Fridays.)



Ruthie Blum



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# An overdose of female rage

In Tune



By David Brinn

Nothing is guaranteed in life, except that the Boston Red Sox won't win another World Series in this century and that Alanis Morissette will sell 12 million copies of her new disc *Supposed Former Infatuation Junkie*.

That was the number sold of Morissette's 1995 debut *Jagged Little Pill*, which burst out of

Fans who bought *Pill* for "ironic" or any of its other intoxicating tracks will be disappointed at having to work harder to enjoy the generous 17 tracks on *Junkie*. Those in shock can escape to the pure pop chorus of "So Pure."

While far from a failure, *Junkie* sounds like Morissette is searching for a way to lift the heavy shadow of *Jagged Little Pill* from her vision. But it keeps getting in the way.

ONE band that has no problem in reinventing itself is U2, which at the dawn of the 1990s packed away its flag-waving idealism and bought some wrap-around sunglasses.

The Best of 1980-1990 chronicles Bono and company's transition from four Irish lads emulating their punk heroes into the greatest rock 'n' roll band in the land.

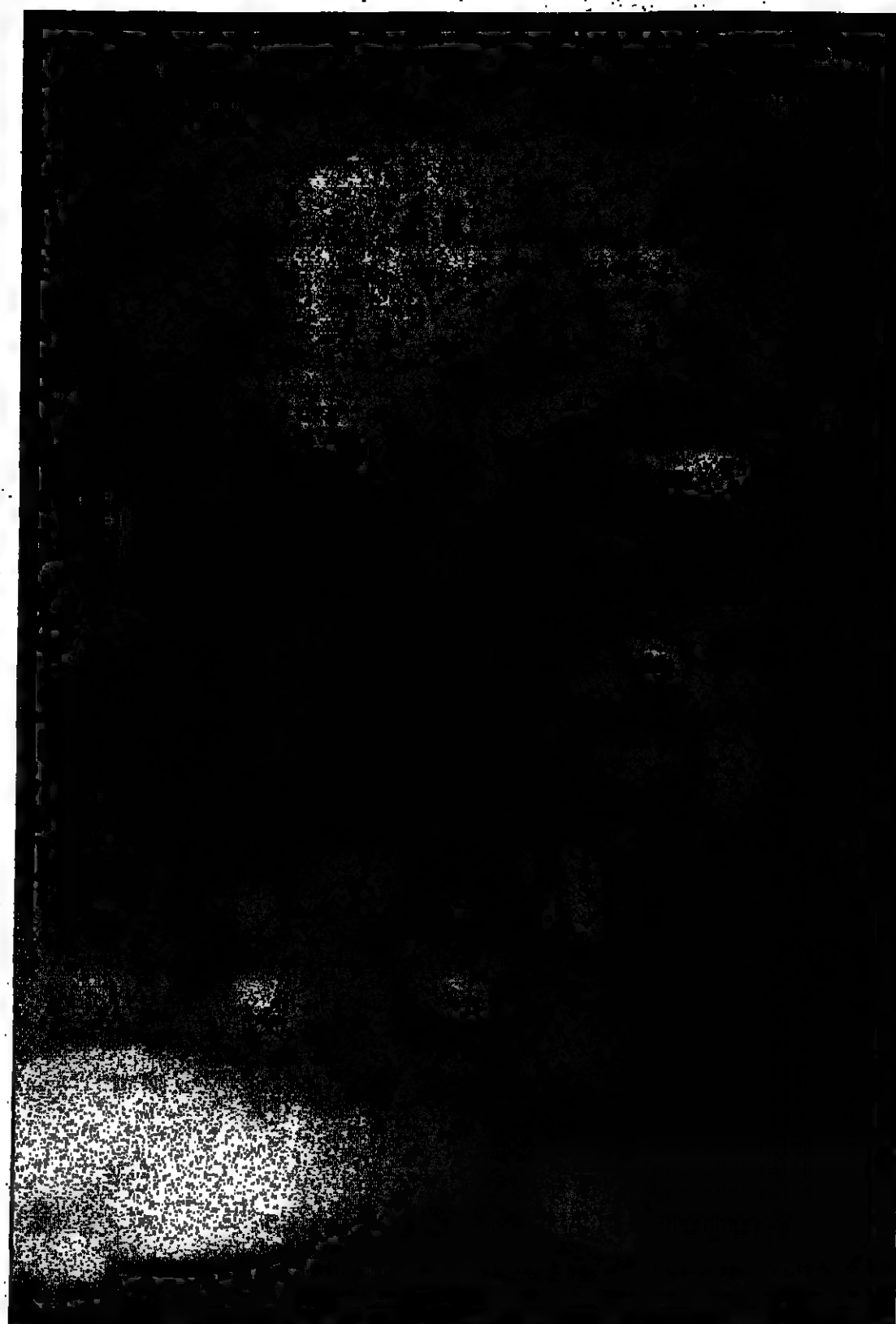
Tapping both the energy of punk and the structure of classic rock, as well as possessing the singular charisma of Bono and guitar talents of The Edge, U2 coalesced into a band for the ages. From early, rebellious material like "Sunday, Blood Sunday" and "I Will Follow" to later more expansive anthems like "With or Without You" and "Pride (In the Name of Love)," the band's brains and hearts were always in sync.

However, the album could have been presented so much more grandly. First of all, there are a relative skimpy 14 tracks; four of those are culled from *Rattle and Hum*, not considered to be the band's 1980s high point. A new song is included - "Sweetest Thing" - which would be vaguely annoying if it were not such a fun piece of soul-pop. So that leaves nine tracks to cover five albums in which the band was growing by leaps and bounds.

Finally, aside from the wonderful photographs of the band as scruffy teens with a punk wardrobe, there's no historical insight either in the way of an essay or even a listing of the band's albums. Surely U2 deserves packaging that approaches the majestic level of its music. Maybe Volume 2, due next year, will rectify the situation.

ANOTHER questionable packaging issue pops up on Joe Cocker's *Greatest Hits*, which half of the 18 songs are culled from Cocker's last three discs. Can anyone name a single song on one of Cocker's last three discs?

Basically, Joe Cocker was a wonderfully soulful singer who more or less ravaged his voice in the early 1970s to the tag team of alcohol and cigarettes. Since then he's become an Andy Williams or Perry Como for baby boomers, offering tepid, middle-of-the-road renditions of oldies ("Summer in the City" or songs by noteworthy but underexposed



The lyrics to Alanis Morissette's stark, brittle songs evoke a session on the psychoanalyst's couch.

Richard, the British popstar who has been around since The Beatles wore checkered ties and skirts. For some reason, Richard never translated to the other side of the Atlantic, and has remained a British superstar over the years while a virtual unknown in the US.

*Real As I Wanna Be*, which celebrates Richard's 40th year in the music business, is typically lightweight, attractive pop that will sound just great in your nearest elevator.

NON-STOP HITS, Hed Ariz's latest compilation aimed at the teen market, presents a reasonable mix of rock, rap and pop on the 17 tracks.

It includes Cleopatra's hip-hop version of The Jackson Five's "I Want You Back" and tracks from Garbage, The Mavericks, Babybird, Billie Meyers, and a host of one-hit wonders and filler.

Not recommended if you thought that list of names represented the one-hit wonders.

# Man vs. beast in a ritual of death

## DANCE ROUNDUP

TORERO,  
FLAMENCO SELECTIONS  
Antonio Canales Company  
TAPAC  
November 17

Dancer and choreographer Antonio Canales strives to display the intensity and spirit of flamenco dance and music through his work. Supported by a group of eight musicians and singers playing the exceptional "Livio Gnanola" by Jose Jimenez, and an excellent ensemble of dancers, his company starts from a good vantage point.

Canales's *Torero* brings into focus the shifting moods, pressures, apprehensions and the final release that occurs on that day when man and beast meet in the ring for a ritual of death. The work has numerous intense dramatic moments, and some choreographic gems, like the duet of two women - perhaps the mother and the worried wife of the hero - sitting at home while he is away, challenging his fate.

One dancer, dressed in black, sits on a chair, and holds a black fan, the other stands behind her, dressed in white and holding a white fan. Both go through the same movements concurrently, as if the urge to move came independently to each of them.

Canales danced the role of Torero (the bullfighter), and performed several prolonged solos throughout the work. He seemed self-conscious, slouched and made a great effort to hide the extra pounds around his midsection, but his feet are strong and able.

For the latter part of the performance, *Flamenco Selections*, Canales composed more traditional flamenco, closer to the style danced in the taverns of the southern regions of Spain.

Far from the commercialized "tourist" stuff, Canales kept the authentic spirit and added a sophisticated touch. The result was a pure delight. The dancers got their chance to show some serious virtu-

oso work, paled only by the sparks that flew from the heels of Juan De Juan.

CURTAIN UP  
International Exposure  
Suzanne Dellal Center, November 13

THIS annual event is meant to allow fringe dance works to be performed under professional conditions, and exposed to the dance audience here and selected guests from abroad.

Regrettably, though, this particular program includes no revelations.

The string that ties together the three performed works, which otherwise have nothing visible in common, is the centrality of the original music to each choreography and the involvement of the composers in them.

In *Dialogue*, Yossi Yungman (a former BatSheva dancer) is a captive of his limited range of dance vocabulary, which causes him to resort to the same few positions and movements regardless of the situation he is in. What a waste.

At his side is an incredible performer, the musician Boris Sibon, who saves the day with his imaginative use of various ethnic musical instruments. The dialogue is therefore lacking, since the powers of the two do not match.

This was apparent more in the collaborative effort of *Reflex*, where both the music and idea came from Keren Rosenbaum and dance choreography is attributed to flamenco dancer Neta Sheizaf. Both artists have a well-deserved reputation in their field; indeed, they are excellent.

Sheizaf, with her powerful range of expressions, had a chance to resort less to her conventional flamenco vocabulary and search for her inner voice. She succeeded at times, yet without abandoning her dance heritage, and those inspired moments may expand her territory yet.

Masa Isha gained from the collaboration with composer Menahem Wiesenberg, who provided a sound frame that was perfectly suited to the slow, pensive and ritualistic journey of four women in search of their identities.

# Plus ça change

By Ury Epstein

Six young musicians presented their compositional endeavors in the Youth at the Center series. Unfortunately, the expected freshness was depressingly meager. "The more it changes the more it remains the same" seemed to be the motto of the events.

YOUTH AT THE CENTER  
Jerusalem Music Center  
November 13

Only Juri Brenner (24) displayed originality and a well-developed sense of artistic form and development. Brenner gave shape to emotionally genuine introversion and agitation in the intellectually con-

trolled piano pieces "Reverie" (1998) and "Light" (1995).

The other composers were fairly talented but not particularly innovative in their attempts at capturing the elusive muse.

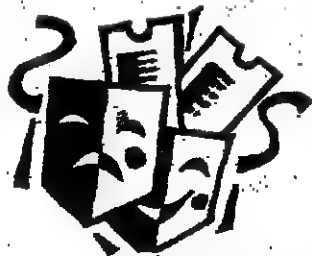
A predominantly theatrical manipulation of secondhand ingredients by time-honored techniques - such as congregational heterophony, cantorial solo, vocal unison and gospel-inspired outcries - was displayed in 19-year-old Nuri Ya'akobi's "Avinu Malkenu." The synagogal motif was too gimmick-like to be convincing.

Twenty-five-year-old Kobi Arad's "Daydream" for piano (Shlomo Shem-Tov) sounded like a recycled combination of impressionism and jazz, reminiscent of Debussy and Gershwin's piano pieces of the '20s.

Likewise anchored in half-digested impressionism and jazz, but both more elaborate and more confused, was Hadas Goldschmidt-Halifon's Piano Sonata (Tali Margolis).

# Shakespearean comics steal the show at Khan Theater

Theater Review



By Naomi Dougal

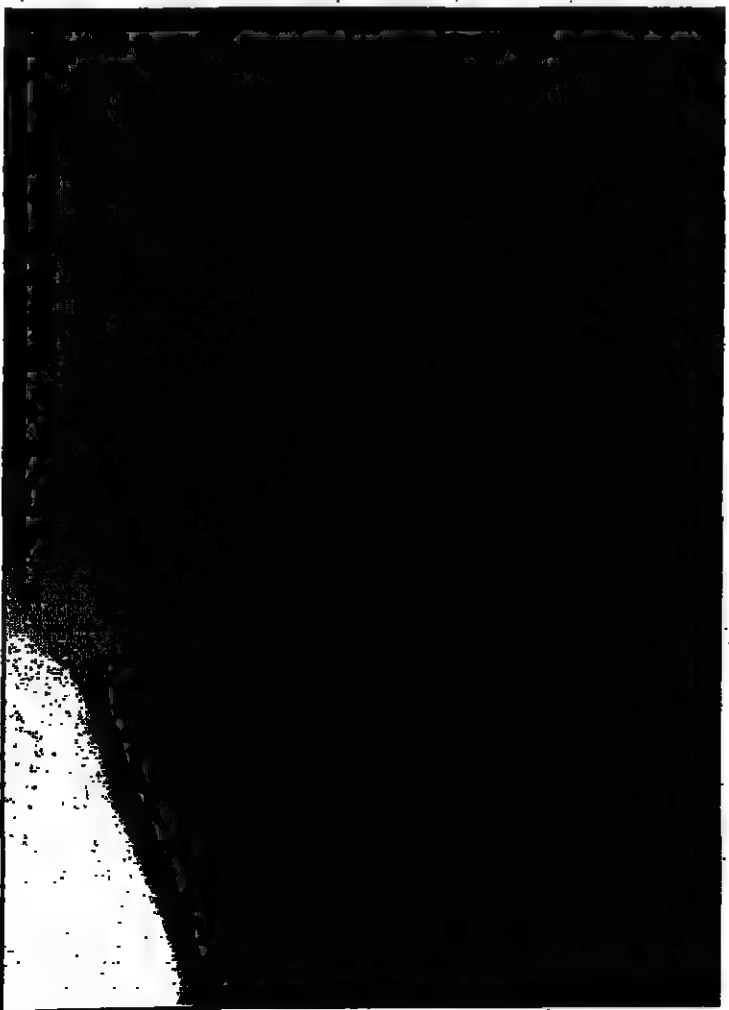
The Khan scores yet another outstanding achievement with its first Shakespearean production in years. Gadi Roll injects one of Shakespeare's more problematic plays with a wealth of visual fantasy and imagination, overcoming the play's weaknesses in an effective display of brilliant stagecraft.

Roll's reading may not fit the notion of conventional. His is a defiant interpretation, subtle and suggestive. It weaves a magic web of sight (Roni Toren's set), sound (Eldad Lidor), lighting (Felice Ross) costume (Eilat Cosh), and choreography to cover the flaws of

MEASURE FOR MEASURE  
By William Shakespeare  
Khan Theater,  
Jerusalem

structure and text. Definitely a director's piece, Roll's *Measure for Measure* towers over most of the travesties passing for Shakespeare in modern dress, endlessly erupt on our stages. Roll's flair for the fantastic adds to this drama a dimension that is as deeply poetic as it is theatrically exciting.

The acting, however, hardly measured up. With two powerful actors like Yigal Sadeh (Angelo) and Yoram Hatzab (the Duke) in the lead, more was to be expected of the deeper moments of the



In a theatrically exciting adaptation, Isabella (Tamara Dayan) gives Angelo (Yigal Sadeh) a piece of her mind.

drama. Instead, these moments were damaged by the exasperating presentation of a virginal Isabella, played in a tiny voice by Tamara Dayan. A more fortunate choice for the part might have been Lilian Barreiro, who played the minor role of Mariana, Angelo's betrothed, with all the quiet expressiveness and constraint appropriate to the former.

In fact, it is the comic figures

that steal the show in this production. Moti Katz delights throughout with a marvelously mischievous and manipulative Lucio. Katya Zimbrice, stunning as Mistress Overdone, the bawdy, clowns convulsively with Aryeh Tchernier as her flashy pimp, Pompey. But it is a vignette by Bassam Zu'mot in the minute part of Barnardine, the "dissolute" drunk, that for comedy playing perhaps crowns them all.

# Phish plans a millennium party to remember

By ROGER CATLIN

Virtual cities emerged during their annual weekend festivals the past three summers at decommissioned air force bases in Maine and New York state.

They've put on huge, conceptual New Year's Eve shows in big arenas - lately Madison Square Garden.

But just as everything was beginning to feel like an annual event for Phish, it all changes next year.

These two annual events will mesh into a huge New Year's Eve outdoor show when calendars turn to 2000 (an event that also will free the band for their first East Coast summer tour in years).

"We haven't received all our permits yet, but we're 99 percent there," Phish guitarist Trey Anastasio says over the phone from Cleveland. "We've been working on it for two years."

And it won't be in Maine, where this year's Lemonwheel, and the Great West in 1997, each drew 65,000 fans each day for a weekend of performances near the Canadian border.

"It's in a absolutely beautiful, warm place," Anastasio says of the 1999 New Year's show.

"We figure the set will start at 11:30 p.m. and we'll play

Right through the year 2000." "Right," says Anastasio with a laugh. "We'll play 'Theme from 2001' for the whole year."

It's not entirely impossible for the Vermont band that has accomplished so much - and so much that's strange - in 15 years, to become the most successful cult improvisation band to emerge in the final decade of the 20th century.

Phish plays the "2001" theme fairly often in concert, along with other weird covers. On the current tour, they're also doing songs from their acclaimed new set, *The Story of the Ghost*, which features

songs carved out of studio improvisations.

Fresh from the European tour that produced "Slip Stitch and Pass" last year, the band - which also includes drummer Jon Fishman, bassist Mike Gordon and keyboardist Page McConnell - went to the Bearsville Studios near Woodstock, N.Y., "just to do some jamming to tape as an experiment," Anastasio says.

"It was about a year ago, long before we had the intent of starting a new album. We were thinking that maybe we'd put out an album of just instrumental music. But slowly we became attached to bits and pieces of the music," he said.

At the same time, Anastasio and lyricist Tom Marshall retreated to a Vermont barn studio for four weekends and ended up with dozens of songs - five of which made the album.

For the bits of jamming that sounded like songs, the members would improvise on poetry that Marshall had written and tape it to see how it sounded. Most of those tapes were the finished vocals on the album.

"What we didn't realize, is that all that tape would be used," Anastasio says. "So at the moment of the very conception of the song is what's captured on the album."

Phish went back to learn the songs and re-record them, but none of those tracks had the spark and spontaneity of their work tapes.

"As soon as we heard the takes, we realized we were doing a disservice to the songs by doing them over," he says. "The genuine moment has already been captured."

After admittedly struggling through six previous studio albums - none of which compared in popularity to their live shows - Anastasio says "I really learned a lot about recording" from the process.

(The Hartford Courant)

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By *GREGORY CASHMAN*

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סניף מן הארץ



## Sainz 'coasting' to world title

CHELTHAM (Reuters) - Spaniard Carlos Sainz remained on course for his third world championship yesterday after a dramatic second leg of the Rally of Britain saw home favorite Colin McRae retire with a blown engine.

Sainz, with title rival Tommi Makinen long gone, could afford the luxury of a comparatively relaxed day's driving in the Welsh forests. He finished the stages fourth overall in his Toyota and on target to lift the crown.

British Richard Burns led by more than a minute in his Mitsubishi from McRae's younger brother Alister in Subaru.

McRae, in front from the start on Sunday morning and only once headed briefly, retired when his Subaru's engine failed after the sixth stage of the day and 19th overall.

The Scot said it was a dismal way to bid farewell to his team after eight years. He joins Ford next season.

McRae's exit handed leadership to compatriot Richard Burns, his successor at Subaru. Burns was fastest on five of the day's eight stages.

McRae was forced out by a piston failure while driving on the road between stage 19 at Cefn and stage 20 at Sweet Lamb.

Today's third and final leg takes the survivors into south Wales for seven stages in the valleys and fights close to Swansea Bay.

## Change of fortune gives Liverpool hope for UEFA Cup clash with Celta

MADRID (Reuters) - Liverpool will look to a rejuvenated Robbie Fowler to lead their bid for a second Spanish success of the season against Celta Vigo today.

An English victory would also help prevent this year's UEFA Cup being dominated by sides from France, Italy and Spain.

While those three countries threaten to corner the quarter-final market - France and Spain each have four representatives in the last 16, while Italy claim three - Liverpool are England's sole survivor in the third round after a hard-fought victory over Valencia.

The twice UEFA Cup winners know just how hard their task will be after the Spaniards disposed of Aston Villa with a vibrant 3-1 win at Villa Park.

But there was a reversal of fortune on Saturday. Liverpool turned around a wretched run of results with a 4-2 win at Villa, while Celta conceded top spot in the Spanish first division with a 2-0 defeat at lowly Alaves.

Those scores have given the Reds renewed hope that they can extend their European season into the New Year.

Celta coach Victor Fernandez refused to dwell on his side's surprise league defeat, saying: "This defeat changes nothing, absolutely nothing. It's already forgotten." But he added: "Liverpool are now in great form and this is going to be a historic game. It's the most attractive tie of the round... and to win it we're going to have to be aggressive, quick and fully concentrated."

Fowler hinted at a return to his once irresistible striking form with a hat-trick on Saturday. His partnership with fellow England man Michael Owen and Jamie Redknapp pointed the way to Liverpool's most likely route to success in the continued absence of the suspended Steve McManaman and Paul Ince.

Celta's attack, led by Russians Alexander Mostovoi and Valery Karpin and Bulgarian giant Lubo Penev, will be confident of causing problems to Liverpool's still-frail defence.

But their own backline will be hit by suspensions to Michel Salgado and Rafael Berge, two of their stars this season.

Both Spain and France are guaranteed at least one team apiece in the next round as Monaco host Olympique Marseille while Atletico Madrid travel to the Basque country to take on Real Sociedad.

Atletico must be favorites after their 6-1 breeze past Valladolid on Saturday. Arrigo Sacchi's side will also be boosted by the return of Brazilian striker Juninho, while Sociedad are hit by an injury to Francisco de Pedro.

Real Betis hopes of making it past Bologna have been boosted by an excellent run of three wins out of four league games since the arrival of Javier Clemente, the former national team coach.

Bologna, who extended their unbeaten run to 14 matches on Saturday, are hit by a suspension to defender Amadeo Mangone.

In the first ever all-French UEFA Cup clash Monaco and Marseille will both be looking to bounce back from league defeats last week of the season - against France's other Cup representatives, Girondins Bordeaux and Olympique Lyon.

Marseille will be without injured Italian Fabrizio Ravanelli and suspended defender William Gallas but there is better news for Monaco, who welcome back defender Martin Djeto, who came on as a sub against Bordeaux, and midfielder Sylvain Legwinski.

Bordeaux, who travel to Zurich to take on Grasshoppers, face a problem of imbalance as both right back David Jemali and right-sided

midfielder Ali Benarbia are suspended.

Grasshoppers, who were awarded victory over Fiorentina in the last round by UEFA after a firecracker was thrown onto the pitch during the second round second leg in Italy, warmed up for the first leg with a 2-1 league victory over Basle.

Lyon, who host Belgian side Brugge, have defenders David Lineres and Christian Bassila suspended. Midfielder Philippe Violan, who scored a brilliant second goal against Marseille, is nursing a knock on the leg, but should play.

Bruges will be without key defender Tjorven De Brui, who is serving the last game of a four-match ban, while midfielder Gert Verheyen and veteran goalkeeper Dany Verdonck are injured.

The other Italian sides in the competition, AS Roma and Parma, both dropped points in their weekend games.

Parma went down 1-0 at Cagliari on Saturday and lost the services of striker Enrico Chiesa, who limped out of the game after pulling a muscle. Crot Mario Stanic will partner Argentine Hernan Crespo up front as Faustino Asprilla is suspended, along with defender Robert Mussi.

Parma's main consolation is that they came up against a Rangers side in even greater disarray after they suffered a 5-1 mauling against city rivals Celtic.

Roma, who were held 1-1 at home to Bari, will look for an improvement as they host FC Zurich.

The Italians will be without midfielder Eusebio Di Francesco and Cameroon defender Pierre Wome, both suspended, and injured Brazilian right back Cafu.

Fabio Petrucci steps in for Cafu in defence while either Russian Dimitri Alenichev or Yugoslav Ivan Tomic will replace Di Francesco in midfield.

## No easy ride for UEFA at presidents' meeting

LONDON (Reuters) - European soccer's more powerful countries are likely to push for a new two-tier qualifying tournament for the 2004 European Championship finals at a meeting of UEFA's 51 national presidents today.

The major European nations are becoming aggrieved by the current qualifying system in which the likes of smaller nations like San Marino, the Faroe Islands and Liechtenstein are in the same qualifying groups as, for example, Germany, France and Italy.

According to well-placed UEFA sources, the larger countries want the minnows to take part in a pre-qualifying tournament instead to maximize their television revenue elsewhere.

UEFA however, are against that idea as they say the more open qualifying competition raises standards in the smaller nations.

A number of other key issues feature on the agenda of the presidents' Geneva meeting, the first of its kind for 31 years.

The planned changes in European club competition as well as the multi-ownership of clubs will also be debated. It is likely that UEFA's continuing uneasy relationship with the European Union and the concept of central marketing will be discussed.

The main item on the agenda though will be the expansion of the Champions' League and UEFA Cup and the abolition of the European Cup Winners' Cup, which UEFA wants to have in place by next summer - the start of the 1999-2000 season.

However, not everyone is in agreement. Graham Kelly of the English Football Association told the Sunday Times this weekend that he would prefer UEFA to delay the start of the new Champions League for another year.

"Our preference would be for the new Champions' League to begin in the season 2000-01. It's clear the clubs are rushing for the cash, but if you are making fundamental changes, you have to have time to get it right." UEFA will also be keen to dissuade their member federations and clubs from deviating from the concept of central marketing - the means by which UEFA controls the vast income from television revenue, some \$500 million a season generated by the Champions' League which it then distributes among its member federations.

The more powerful European clubs, 14 of whom met in Madrid last week to discuss the proposed changes, are known to be not at all keen on that idea, believing they could earn more if they owned the rights to the matches they played.

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## Inside

## England on the back foot

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## UEFA Cup preview

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Sports Editors  
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

## Ball penalty gives Everton long-awaited home win

LONDON (Reuters) — A Michael Ball penalty earned Everton their first home English premier league victory of the season last night.

The struggling Merseyside club beat Newcastle United 1-0 to end a run of six league games without a win.

The penalty was awarded in the 18th minute after Carl Serrant hauled down Don Hutchison on the edge of the box near the byline.

Ball drove the spot kick fiercely into the roof of the net, giving Everton fans the chance to cheer only the second Everton goal in seven premier league starts at Goodison Park this season.

Newcastle, without a win in their previous four league games, enjoyed a high percentage of the possession in the second half, but rarely threatened an equalizer.

PREMIER LEAGUE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aston Villa	13	8	4	1	20	10	28
Manchester United	13	7	4	2	27	14	25
Arsenal	14	6	6	2	14	6	24
Chelsea	12	6	6	0	1	12	23
Leeds United	14	4	1	9	11	33	13
West Ham United	14	4	5	5	18	23	17
Middlesbrough	14	4	5	5	23	19	17
Wimbledon	14	4	4	6	18	22	16
Liverpool	14	4	4	6	24	19	16
Tottenham Hotspur	14	4	4	6	16	21	16
Derby County	14	4	4	6	15	17	16
Leicester City	14	4	4	6	15	17	16
Charlton Athletic	14	3	4	7	21	16	13
Newcastle United	14	3	4	7	13	14	13
Sheffield Wed.	14	3	4	7	13	14	13
Coventry City	14	3	4	7	13	14	13
Everton	14	3	4	7	13	14	13
Nottingham Forest	14	2	4	8	12	20	10
Southampton	14	2	4	8	12	20	10
Blackburn Rovers	14	2	4	8	12	20	10



LEFT: San Francisco WR Terrell Owens (81) is tackled by Saints defenders after a 19-yard catch during second-quarter action. The 49ers won 31-20. Right: Calgary kicker Mark McLoughlin hoists the Grey Cup after the Stampede defeated the Hamilton Tiger-Cats 26-24 to win the Canadian Football League championship.



## Vikings keep Packers at Bay, clinch playoff spot



NEW YORK (AP) — The NFC playoff picture is remarkably clear with five weeks to go.

Barring an unexpected collapse by a division leader or playoff perennial Green Bay and San Francisco, or an unexpected five-game winning streak by a have-not team, the first-round pairings are virtually set.

Minnesota was a 28-14 winner in its showdown with Green Bay, and Dallas beat Seattle 30-22 Sunday. The Vikings and

Cowboys essentially have three-game leads in their divisions, and the Packers and 49ers seem to be sure bets to at least win wild cards.

The NFC race that's most up in the air is the West, where San Francisco (8-3) is just one game behind Atlanta (9-2), and Falcons quarterback, Chris Chandler was hurt again in their 20-13 victory over Chicago on Sunday.

But Chandler believes he'll be ready for Cincinnati next week, and the Falcons have a favorable schedule in their race with the 49ers, who defeated New Orleans 31-20 Sunday night.

"It's certainly not a season-threatening or career-threatening

injury," team doctor Andrew Bishop said of Chandler's right knee and ankle sprain. But the ugly-looking injury with 6 minutes left was enough to strike fear into the rest of the Falcons, who saw Chandler wipe out a 10-point deficit with two touchdown passes against the Bears.

"We don't need those demons back in this locker room," receiver Terance Mathis said. "We don't need those demons back in this organization. We've got to keep Chris healthy."

Another wide-open NFC race is the one for the last wild card spot behind Green Bay and either Atlanta or San Francisco. Arizona,

a 45-42 winner over Washington, has the inside track for its first playoff berth since 1982.

In the AFC, the only sure thing appears to be Denver, which kept alive its hopes for an unbeaten season with its defeat of the Raiders.

The Broncos are the 10th team in NFL history to go 11-0 and are aiming to match the 1972 Miami Dolphins as the only teams to go undefeated wire-to-wire.

Pittsburgh (7-4) moved within a game of Jacksonville with its showdown AFC Central victory over the Jaguars, and there would be a three-way tie for first in the AFC East if host New England beat Miami last night.

## Vikings 28, Packers 14

Randy Moss had 153 yards receiving, including a 49-yard TD pass from Randall Cunningham, who matched Brett Favre's two scoring throws.

The host Vikings (10-1) clinched a playoff berth when the 49ers beat the Saints.

## Falcons 20, Bears 13

Host Atlanta won its fourth straight, but they know their fate rests on the health of Chandler.

Over the past two seasons, the Falcons are 14-4 when Chandler plays an entire game. They are 2-7 otherwise, including a 28-3 loss to the New York Jets with Steve DeBerg as the starter — their worst

defeat this season.

Before he was injured, Chandler brought the Falcons back from a 13-3 deficit with a 13-yard touchdown pass to Terance Mathis and an 11-yarder to Todd Kinchen.

## Cardinals 45, Redskins 42

Jake Plummer ran for three touchdowns and passed for two as Arizona held on at Washington after leading 31-0.

The Cardinals (6-5) won despite outstanding performances from Trent Green and Michael Westbrook. Green completed 30 of 49 passes for 382 yards and a career-high four touchdowns.

See NFL, Page 18

## Last-second FG gives Calgary Grey Cup win

WINNIPEG (AP) — Mark McLoughlin kept things simple. His 35-yard field goal on the final play gave the Calgary Stampede a 26-24 victory over the Hamilton Tiger Cats in the 86th Grey Cup on Sunday in Winnipeg.

McLoughlin, who failed on a 48-yard attempt in the first quarter, did not miss when it counted most.

Hamilton was trailing 23-18 at the 12-minute mark of the fourth quarter when quarterback Danny McManus found Archie Amerson with

a pass up the middle. The Ticat running back escaped three Calgary tacklers and raced 47 yards to the Stampede two-yard line. Ron Williams punched in the touchdown on a third-down, watching a Calgary penalty negate a McManus interception and converting a third down that resulted in a 34-yard touchdown pass to Ron Williams that put them ahead 13-10.

"We made some mistakes in the first half that could have cost us big," McLoughlin said. "We were lucky we could pull it out."

Tiger Cats' Cinderella season.

The game was close throughout, although the Tiger Cats dodged a few bullets in the second quarter, recovering their own fumble on a punt return, watching a Calgary penalty negate a McManus interception and converting a third down that resulted in a 34-yard touchdown pass to Ron Williams that put them ahead 13-10.

"We made some mistakes in the first half that could have cost us big," McLoughlin said. "We were lucky we could pull it out."

## Injured Agassi avoids Sampras at ATP World Championship

HANNOVER (AP) — Pete Sampras, battling to retain his No. 1 ranking for a record sixth year in a row, got a group without fellow American Andre Agassi at yesterday's draw for the ATP World Championship. The bad news for Agassi was a sudden back injury.

Agassi missed the draw to get treatment for back spasms he suffered in practice yesterday and will not start playing until tomorrow in the round-robin portion of the \$3.5 million event.

"I went to hit a shot and managed to get a little stuck on the court and fell down," Agassi said. "I still remain hopeful but if I don't take care of it right now it's going to get worse, so I need to treat it."

Marcelo Rios, who is ranked No. 2 and who can unseat Sampras from

the top ranking in the season-ending tournament, heads the White Group, while Sampras leads the Red Group.

Sampras will face Karol Kucera, Carlos Moya and Yevgeny Kafelnikov. He will kick off the tournament today against Kafelnikov, the Russian whom he beat in last year's final when he won the fourth title in the elite tournament of the top eight players of the year.

Rios will battle Agassi, Alex Corretja and Tim Henman.

"Anytime I'm away from Pete, I don't mind," said Agassi, who won the event in 1990. "I'll certainly do everything I can to play here." Moya, the French Open champion, beat Sampras in last year's round-robin portion.

"Each match is very important this year," Sampras said.

Sampras is trying to become the first player to finish as No. 1 for six years in a row. He now shares the record of five with Jimmy Connors, who held the No. 1 spot from 1974 to 1978.

Only 33 points separate Sampras from Rios on the computer rankings. To remain ahead of Rios, Sampras simply has to keep pace with Rios. Rios needs to win at least two round-robin matches to have a shot at No. 1. Two players from each group advance to the semifinals.

"I am not putting too much pressure on myself," Sampras said. "The pressure is on both of us, but I've done it five years and he still has to do it." "It's a record that's really hard to achieve. It's rare that you have something in your hands that may stay for eternity. It would be an

achievement that I feel may never be touched," Sampras said.

"But the Grand Slam record is something I put above everything," said Sampras, who has 11 Grand Slam titles, one short of the record of Roy Emerson.

Although he won Wimbledon for the fifth time this year, Sampras has had a relatively modest season by his standards, winning only three other titles.

Rios, who at 22 is five years younger than Sampras, leads the tour with seven titles. The Chilean has already held the No. 1 spot twice briefly this year. This is his first appearance at the World Championship.

In other matches today, Moya plays Kucera and Rios battles Henman.

## UEFA postpone Galatasaray-Juventus clash

GENEVA (Reuters) — European soccer's governing body UEFA ruled yesterday that tomorrow's European Champions' League match between Turkey's Galatasaray and Italy's Juventus would be postponed to December 2.

The teams will still meet in Istanbul but tomorrow's match was put back because of deteriorating relations between the two countries since Italy arrested Kurdish rebel Abdullah Ocalan 10 days ago and refused Turkey's extradition request.

Juventus had been reluctant to travel to Istanbul to play the match tomorrow. Thousands of protesters marched through the streets across Turkey over the weekend, burning Italian flags and goods after a Rome court rejected a Turkish arrest warrant for Ocalan, strengthening indications that Italy would not extradite him.

## England lists 16 stadia for 2006 World Cup

LONDON (Reuters) — A new 80,000 all-seater Wembley Stadium, an expanded 64,000-capacity Stadium of Light in Sunderland and the new Millennium Stadium in Manchester were all named as Category "A" venues for England's 2006 World Cup bid yesterday.

In all 16 stadiums, included the as-yet unbuilt Millennium Stadium to be used for the 2002 Commonwealth Games and a planned new 40,000 capacity all-seater stadium for Leicester City, were placed on the list which all meet FIFA requirements.

Other grounds may be added if their development plans are firm up before England's World Cup bid submission is presented to FIFA next July.

The full list, with their planned capacities is: Aston Villa (51,000), Blackburn Rovers (40,000), Chelsea (42,000), Coventry (40,000), Derby County (40,000), Everton (40,000), Leeds United (45,000), Leicester City (40,000), Liverpool (45,000), Manchester United (67,500), Middlesbrough (42,000), Millennium Stadium, Manchester (50,000), Newcastle United (51,000), Sheffield Wednesday (40,000), Sunderland (64,000) and Wembley (80,000).

Five grounds have been put on a Category "B" stand-by list: Arsenal (currently 38,500), Bristol City

(projected 40,000), Nottingham Forest (currently 30,500), Tottenham Hotspur (currently 36,000) and West Ham (currently 26,000).

Those stadiums could be included on the A list if their plans to expand or rebuild their grounds are firm up in the next few months.

If the English bid is successful, between eight and 12 stadiums would eventually be used as venues for the tournament.

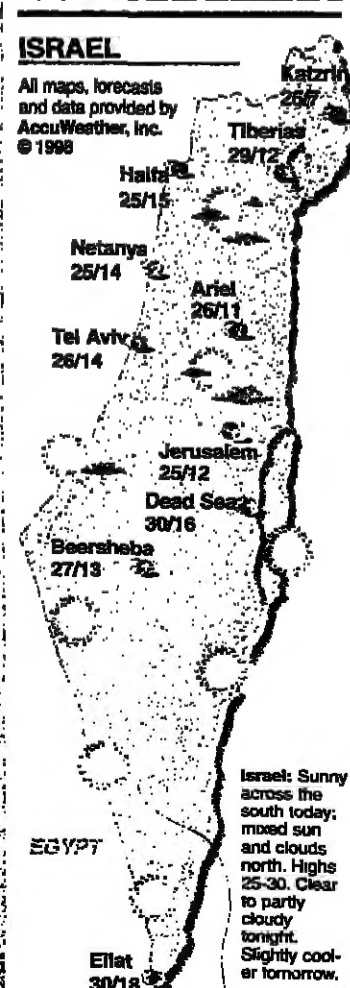
The organizers would like to use another ground in London as well as Wembley, while they would pick one from three in the Midlands and one from three in the North East, with Sunderland likely to win out over Middlesbrough and Newcastle.

Campaign director Alec McGiffan said yesterday: "This shows that England can offer the most wonderful choice of grounds to FIFA."

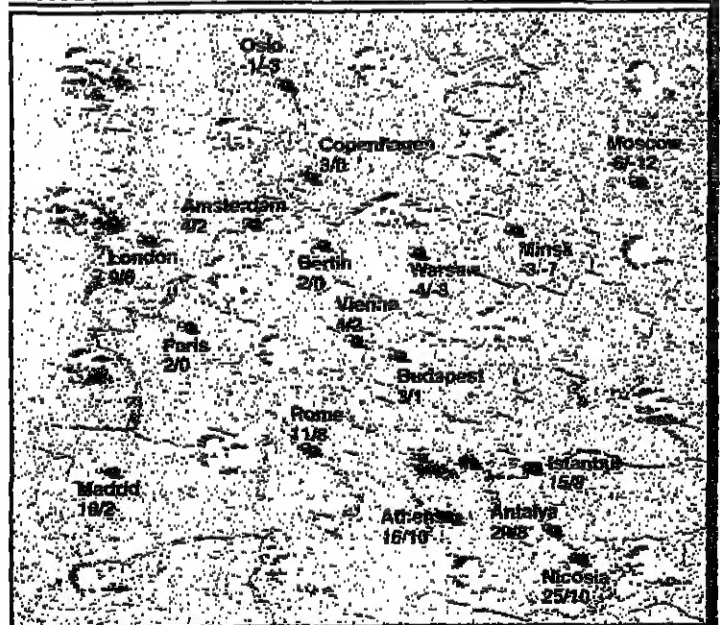
"The 16 in Category 'A' are all modern, they have the whole range of facilities which will be needed to stage a modern World Cup and apart from the new Wembley and the Millennium Stadium which will both be ready in plenty of time, they are here now. I don't think any country which has bid for a World Cup has ever been able to such a large number of high class stadiums."

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## THE WEATHER

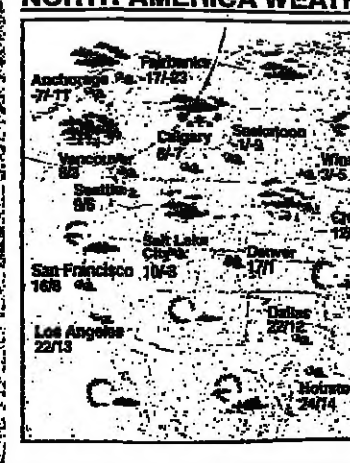


## EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



ISRAEL CITIES	Today	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
City	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High
Jerusalem	25/12	12/3	25/12	12/3	25/12	12/3	25/12	12/3	25/12
Tel Aviv	26/14	13/4	26/14	13/4	26/14	13/4	26/14	13/4	26/14
Haifa	25/15	12/5	25/15	12/5	25/15	12/5	25/15	12/5	25/15
Beer Sheva	27/13	12/3	27/13	12/3	27/13	12/3	27/13	12/3	27/13

## NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY



INTERNATIONAL CITIES	Today	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
City	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High
New York	25/12	12/3	25/12	12/3	25/12	12/3	25/12	12/3	25/12
Los Angeles	26/14	13/4	26/14	13/4	26/14	13/4	26/14	13/4	26/14
Chicago	25/15	12/5	25/15	12/5	25/15	12/5	25/15	12/5	25/15